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講談社

KC Kiss

CHIYA TORIKO SERIES

★

TOKYO ALICE ①

She is more crazy about shopping than finding love. There are so many things that she desires, but she still hasn't found what she's looking for.

◇Kodansha Comics Kiss◇

Kodansha Comics

Tokyo Alice

1

By Toriko Chiya

TOKYO ALICE 1

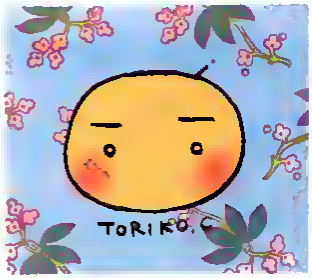
TORIKO CHIYA

KC 609

講談社

Kodansha Comics

Message



Going to work at BGM consists mostly of communication by wire. Sometimes they take requests.

by Toriko Chiya

Cover Design＊*Jun Shiga*

東京アリス 1

椎野鳥子

KC 609

TOKYO ALICE 1

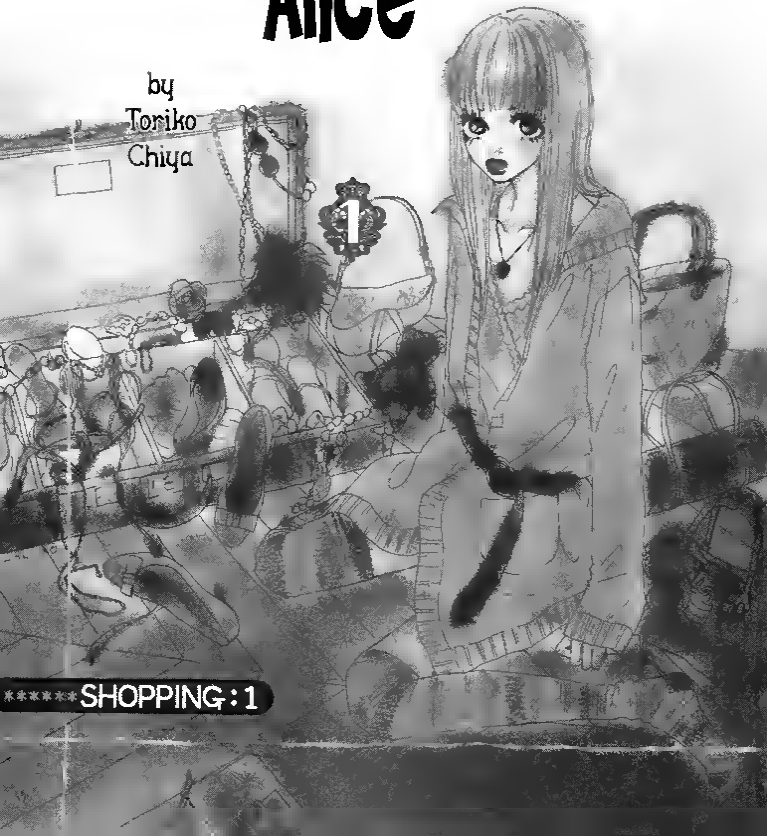
KC Kiss

TORIKO CHIYA

◇Kodansha Comics Kiss◇ 講談社

Tokyo Alice

by
Toriko
Chiya



Don't you know?
There's a saying that he who chases after two hares will catch neither.
Hurry up, hurry up.
Quickly, quickly.

My
love,

my
passion,

and my
purpose
in life

would
be

Shopping!!

RISE RECORDS
Riiiing...
Hello, this is Rise Music Communications

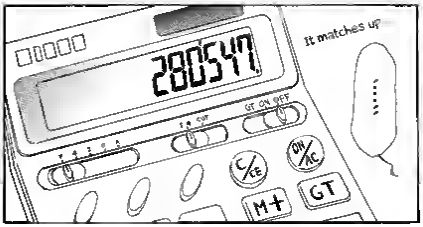
友VIZAカードご利用明細
払日
17年10月11日(火)
合計額
280,547円

Two hundred and eighty thousand yen

Yes
.....
We'll be honoring her at Roppongi studio
Well that isn't for another week

They are definitely, definitely wrong!!
I couldn't have possibly used up this much. VICA must have charged my card an incorrect amount.
click
click
click

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
What's with the amount on this statement?!!


280547
It matches up
.....

What a shopaholic fears most every month
is her monthly withdrawal statement.
Crap, how did this happen?
At this rate, the money I had been saving up for Chanel will be reduced

That's right.
I scraped up money from skipping lunches.
for my beloved Chanel Ligne Cambon medium tote bag ♡
I have been dreaming of this Chanel handbag for so many years.
I decided that I would buy the bag
How wonderful
to commemorate my 26th birthday
My first Chanel ♡
(according to her plans)
Just when I think about being so close to getting the handbag, the reality of this card statement hits me.
Arisugawa
Crap, I feel like crying
Don't you dare cry Fuu
You're at work right now!
drip
Arisugawa

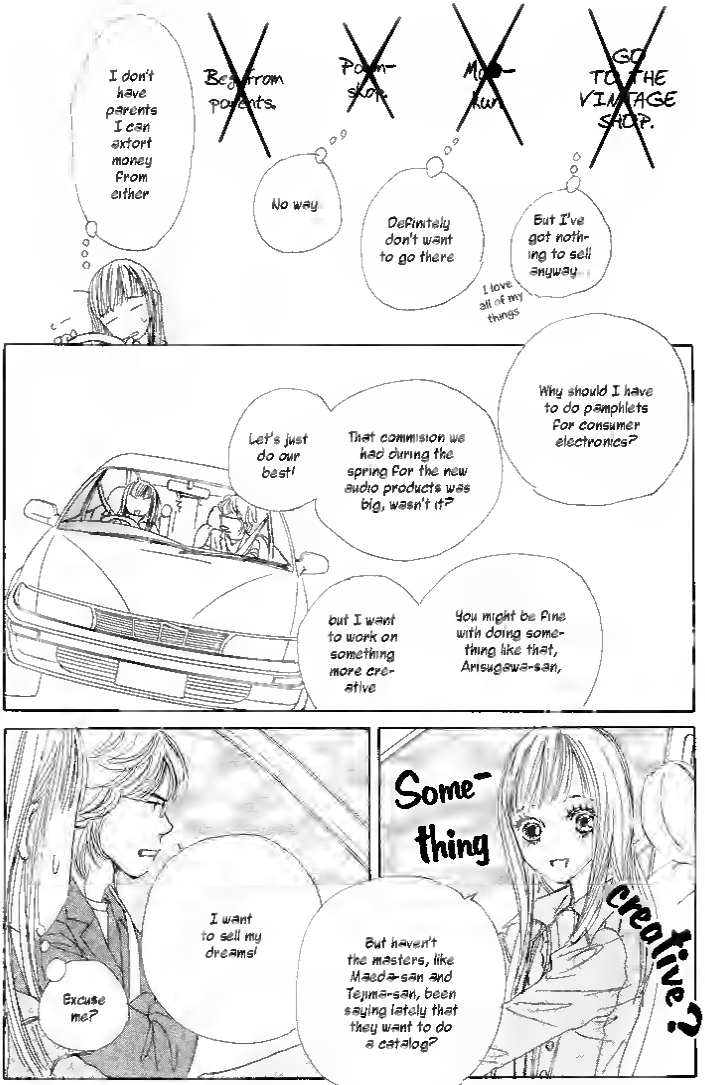
Huh?

.....
Why are you crying?

Ahem
Continuing with the Rise electronics job, I'd like you to go to the appointment with Shibuya-kun, who commisioned these pamphlets from us.
Don't pass it on to me.
AHEM!
AHEM!
Aha, no way my nose is dripping, that's all.
I'm having a bit of a cold.

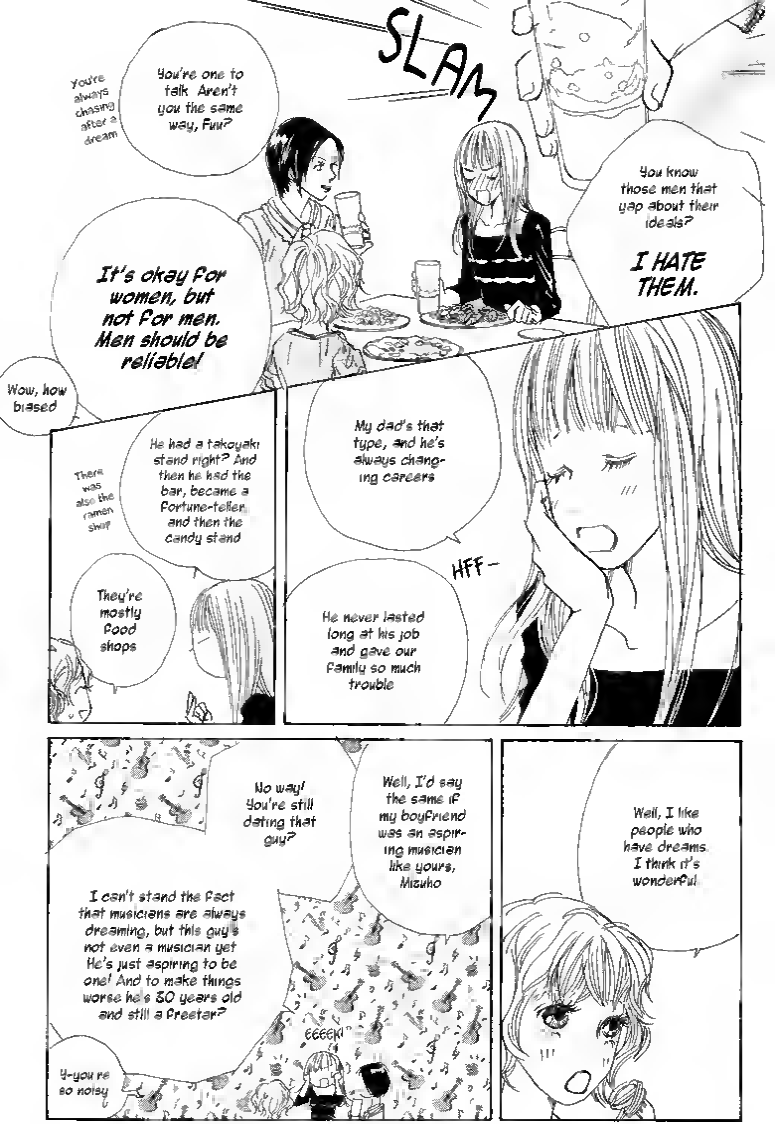
"Iceman Okuzono"

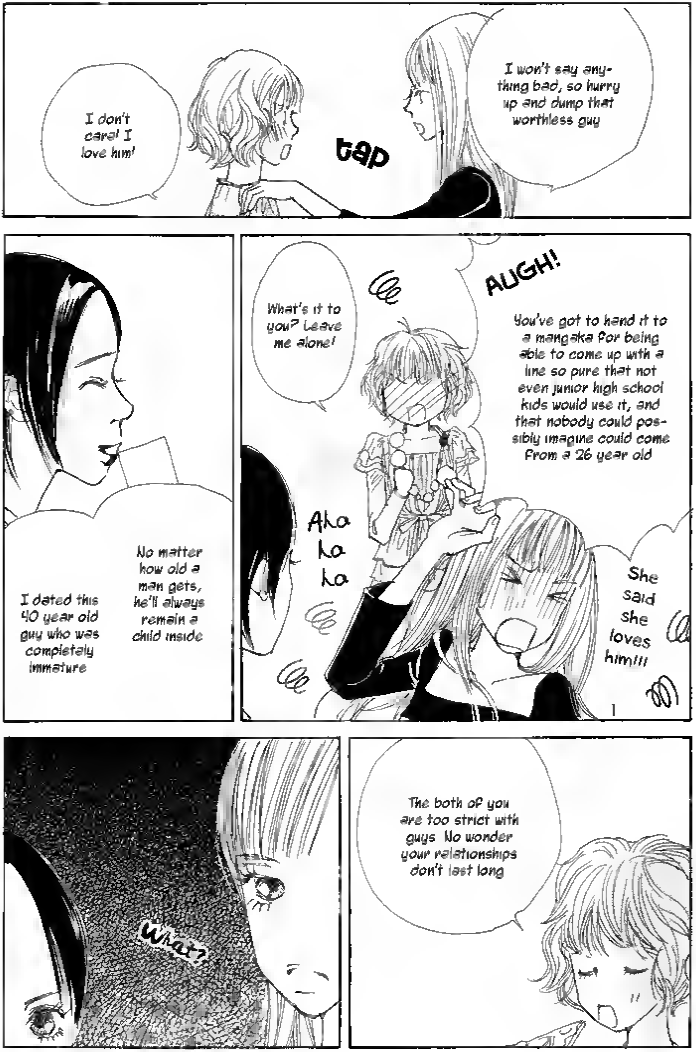
But rumor has it that he has no scruples about betraying women
What is it?
I can't imagine this person having the sort of passion that comes with being in a relationship though
Well, then, I'll take the car for a spin
All the way to Shima Saiwai
Well it doesn't matter
Oh, nothing
They requested that you take a designer with you to their head office in Osaka
Also, Mikakudou seems to like you
This man whose expressions hardly ever change is my boss
And also
With his ability to keep a cool head while being merciless he's a pretty capable employer
Those things aside I'll still be in trouble this month
VROOOM


I don't have parents I can extort money from either
Beg from parents.
Pawn-shop.
Mug-kun
GO TO THE VINTAGE SHOP.
No way
Definitely don't want to go there
But I've got nothing to sell anyway
I love all of my things
Why should I have to do pamphlets for consumer electronics?
Let's just do our best!
That commision we had during the spring for the new audio products was big, wasn't it?
but I want to work on something more creative
You might be fine with doing something like that, Arisugawa-san,
Excuse me?
I want to sell my dreams!
But haven't the masters, like Maeda-san and Tejima-san, been saying lately that they want to do a catalog?
Some-thing
creative?

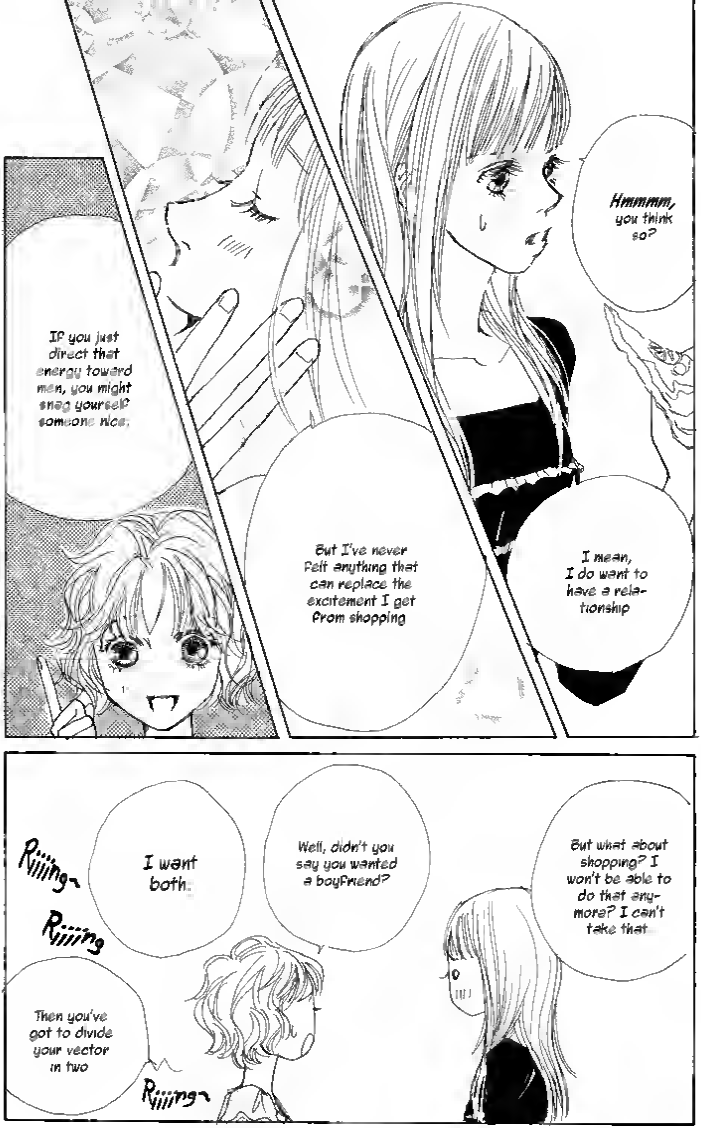
Yes...
Have you ever bought the album cover from a CD?
The universe is inside that 12 centimeters square page!
That's the collaboration between the musician and the visual artists...
Where Art and Art collide
and a new world is created
Uh... Um...
Sigh
In spite of that, you make me do these flakey advertisements and consumer electronics pamphlets
Stuff that anybody else could do
I wish you'd stop forking over these boring jobs to me
Bring in serious business, will you?!

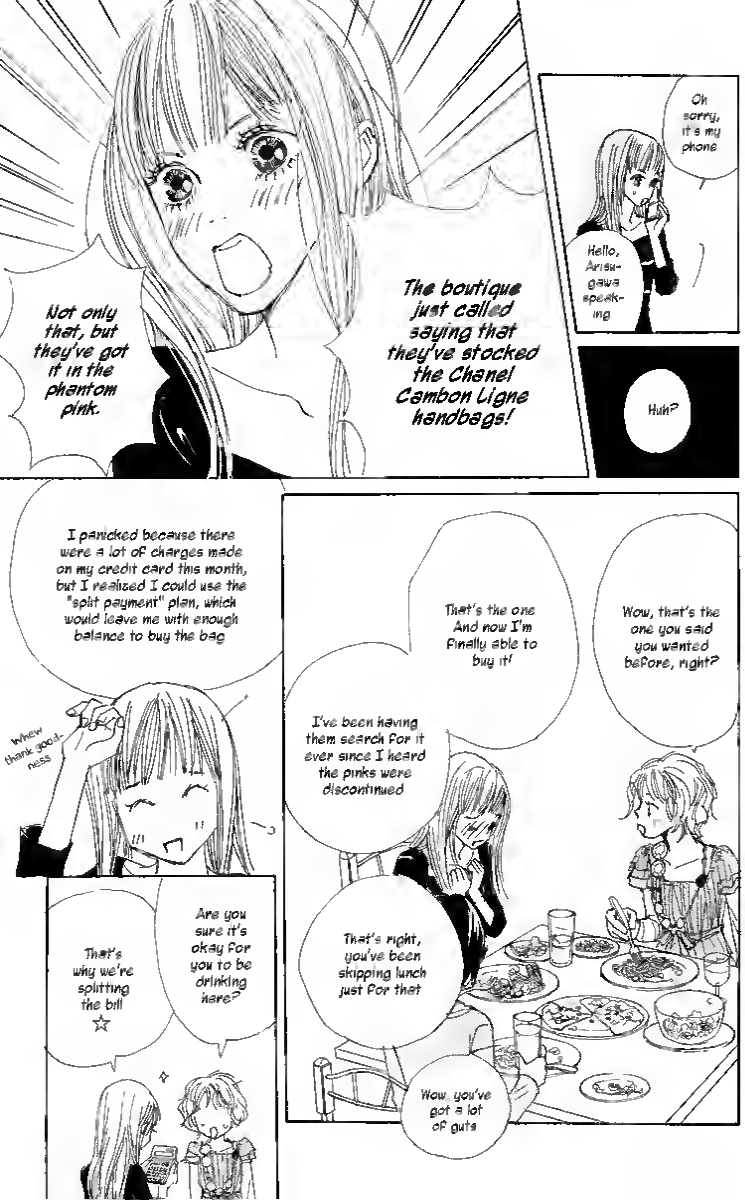
VROOOOOM
Aah! Don't speed up so suddenly!
Are you trying to get me killed?
.....


You're always chasing after a dream
You're one to talk. Aren't you the same way, Fuu?
SLAM
You know those men that yap about their ideals?
I HATE THEM.
It's okay for women, but not for men. Men should be reliable!
Wow, how biased
There was also the ramen shop
He had a takoyaki stand right? And then he had the bar, became a fortune-teller, and then the candy stand
They're mostly food shops
My dad's that type, and he's always changing careers
HFF-
He never lasted long at his job and gave our family so much trouble
No way! You're still dating that guy?
Well, I'd say the same if my boyfriend was an aspiring musician like yours, Mizuho
I can't stand the fact that musicians are always dreaming, but this guy's not even a musician yet. He's just aspiring to be one! And to make things worse he's 30 years old and still a freeter?
EEEEK!
Y-you're so noisy
Well, I like people who have dreams. I think it's wonderful.


I don't care! I love him!
tap
I won't say anything bad, so hurry up and dump that worthless guy
I dated this 40 year old guy who was completely immature
No matter how old a man gets, he'll always remain a child inside
What's it to you? Leave me alone!
AUGH!
You've got to hand it to a mangaka for being able to come up with a line so pure that not even junior high school kids would use it, and that nobody could possibly imagine could come from a 26 year old
Aha ha ha
She said she loves him!!!
1
What?
The both of you are too strict with guys. No wonder your relationships don't last long

Ouchhh
Twist
What did you say just now, huh?
Hey
Don't lump me in the same group as Fuu.
It's true that Fuu doesn't have a anyone, but I decided to be alone because I don't want to be tied up
Wow! There's an even ruder person here. How dare you make a fool out of your friend
I'm going to order dessert
Well, it's the truth
I've had a decent relationship before! (Past tense)
That's because your passion is always turned toward shopping
chew
You're satisfied being single as long as you have that, right?


Hmmmm, you think so?
I mean, I do want to have a relationship
But I've never felt anything that can replace the excitement I get from shopping
If you just direct that energy toward men, you might snag yourself someone nice.
But what about shopping? I won't be able to do that anymore? I can't take that.
Well, didn't you say you wanted a boyfriend?
I want both.
Riiiing~
Riiiing
Then you've got to divide your vector in two
Riiiing~


Not only that, but they've got it in the phantom pink.
The boutique just called saying that they've stocked the Chanel Cambon Ligne handbags!
Oh sorry, it's my phone
Hello, Arisugawa speaking
Huh?
I panicked because there were a lot of charges made on my credit card this month, but I realized I could use the "split payment" plan, which would leave me with enough balance to buy the bag
Whew thank goodness
That's the one And now I'm finally able to buy it!
Wow, that's the one you said you wanted before, right?
I've been having them search for it ever since I heard the pinks were discontinued
That's right, you've been skipping lunch just for that
Wow, you've got a lot of guts
Are you sure it's okay for you to be drinking here?
That's why we're splitting the bill ☆

Bluntly speaking, she's become a weirdo
Uh oh, this is no good. Fuu's reached her maniac level.
If I'm going to bring anything to bed, I'd rather it be a guy
Handbags have no warmth
There, there
You know...
This might seem abnormal, but whenever I buy a new bag I always go to sleep with it ♡
Haa, I can't wait
The Cambon Ligne
It was launched in 04 as part of the new Cambon line of handbags
Rumor has it that it was named after Cambon Street in Paris where the head office is located
And although the line came with an assortment of other items, like the tote or the pochette boston bags, I didn't worship anything else because they were so popular

I recall it had begun during the time I was in high school

The truth is,

I was a bit more heavy than I am now

This is what my father had said while looking at my heavier self

Hey, Fuu

If you lose 10 kilos, I'll buy you a Chanel bag

I believed in those words and worked hard

And I was able to accomplish the diet to get my Kate Moss figure.

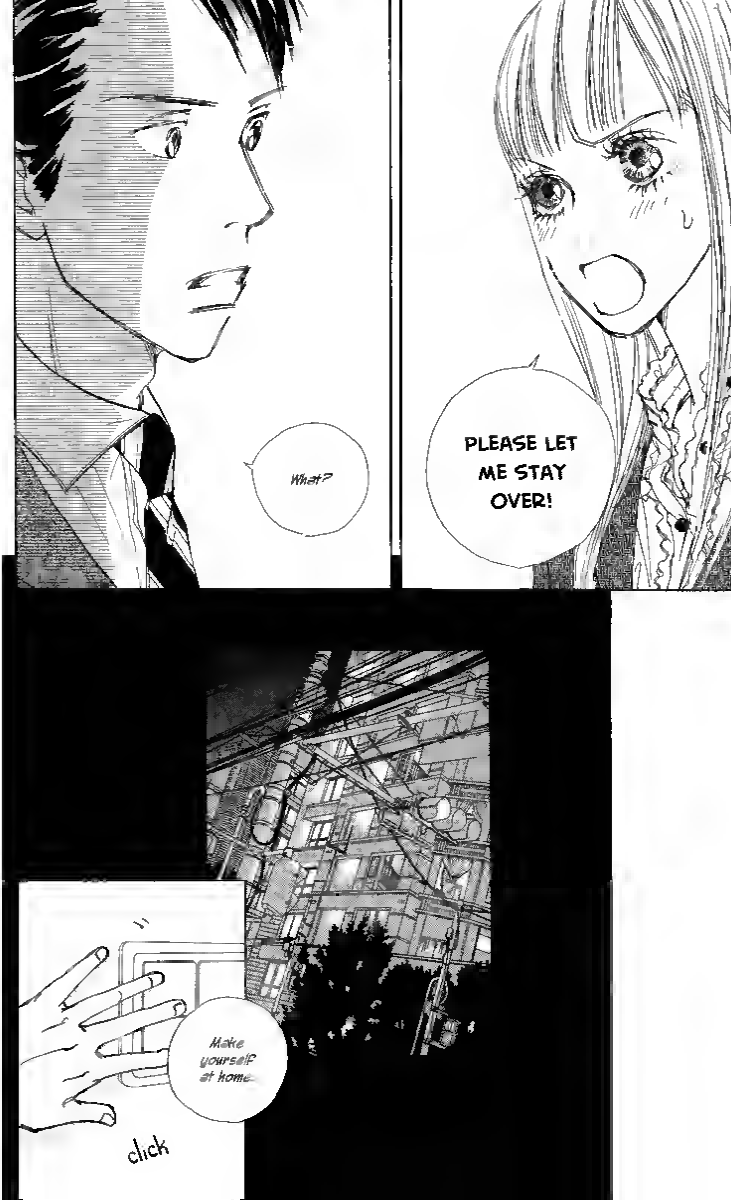
Snugly

For some reason, ever since then, I kept letting my chance of buying the Chanel handbag slip by
How could I have possibly believed in the words of that prankster father of mine at that time?
I wept.
No way
My father said "What, you believed that? I was just pulling your leg."
However...
Aha ha ha
SHOCK
I'm a failure
Hey, Fuu, I heard you got your paycheck Treat me to something, will you?
Fuu, what about dinner?
Oh, so you're just going to ignore me?
You're not cute at all you old man!
I already ate
Just like I thought.
The reason I have no wish to be with a man is because of my father
Welcome back!

But I'll finally be able to get my hands
on the bag that I admire
SCREECH
STOP THAT TRAIN!!
1756
KEIO

Huff
Huff
Huff
No way
The last train left
That was the last train heading toward Hachioji too
What should I do? I didn't think the photo shoot would take this long!
What should I do?!
NO WAAAAY
Ngh What should I do? It'll cost me to take the taxi all the way home
For my Cambon Ligne, I can't waste even a single yen, and yet...
I can't use my card either
Wobble
And I can't stay at a hotel
What about station-squatting?
Isn't that... Iceman Okuzono?!

That's right, his house is in Ebisu
The last train should still be at the JR line
O-
Okuzono-san!
Is this what people mean by a helping hand from heaven?
Well, I have to eat, too!
Oh, it's only you, Arisugawa
What are you doing in Shibuya at this time? Will you make it home?
Oh!
Um.


What?
PLEASE LET ME STAY OVER!
Make yourself at home.
click

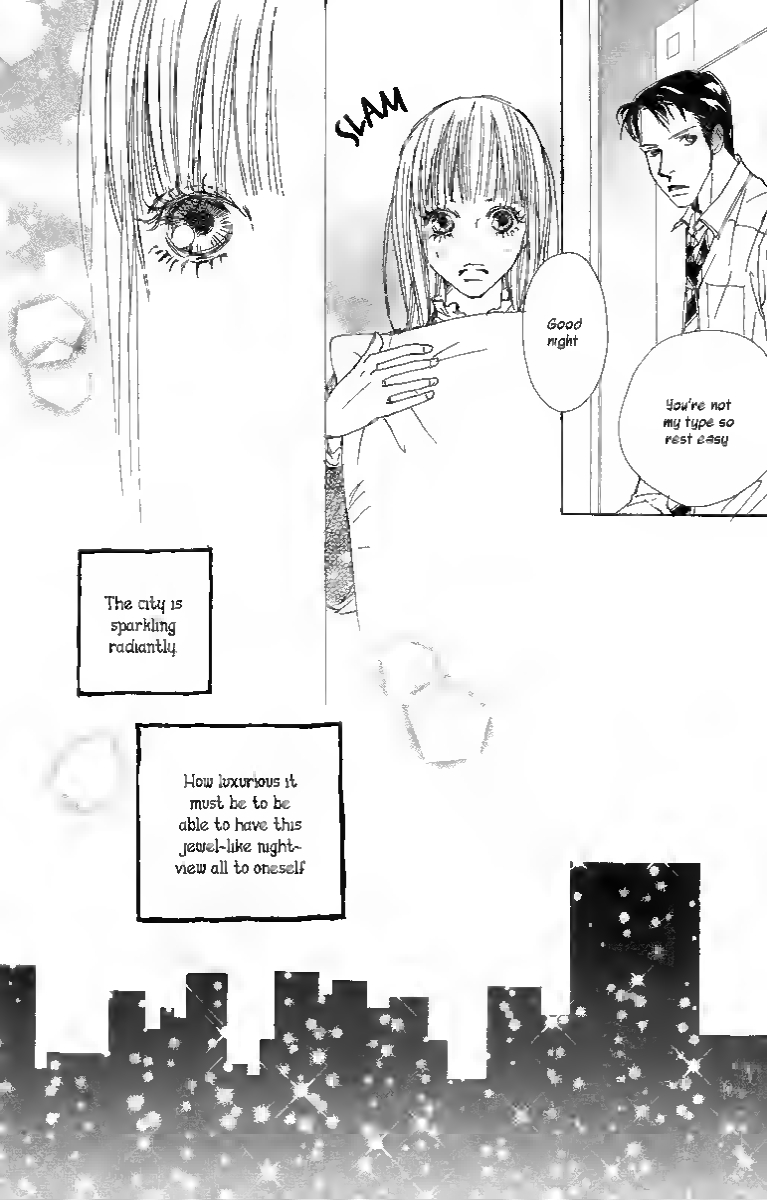
Sorry to intrude...
Wow

This apartment is huge!
Wow, what's this all about?!
A panaoramic night view?!

WOW! You can see Tokyo Tower from here!!
Is that Shinjuku over there?!
That's Roppongi Hills

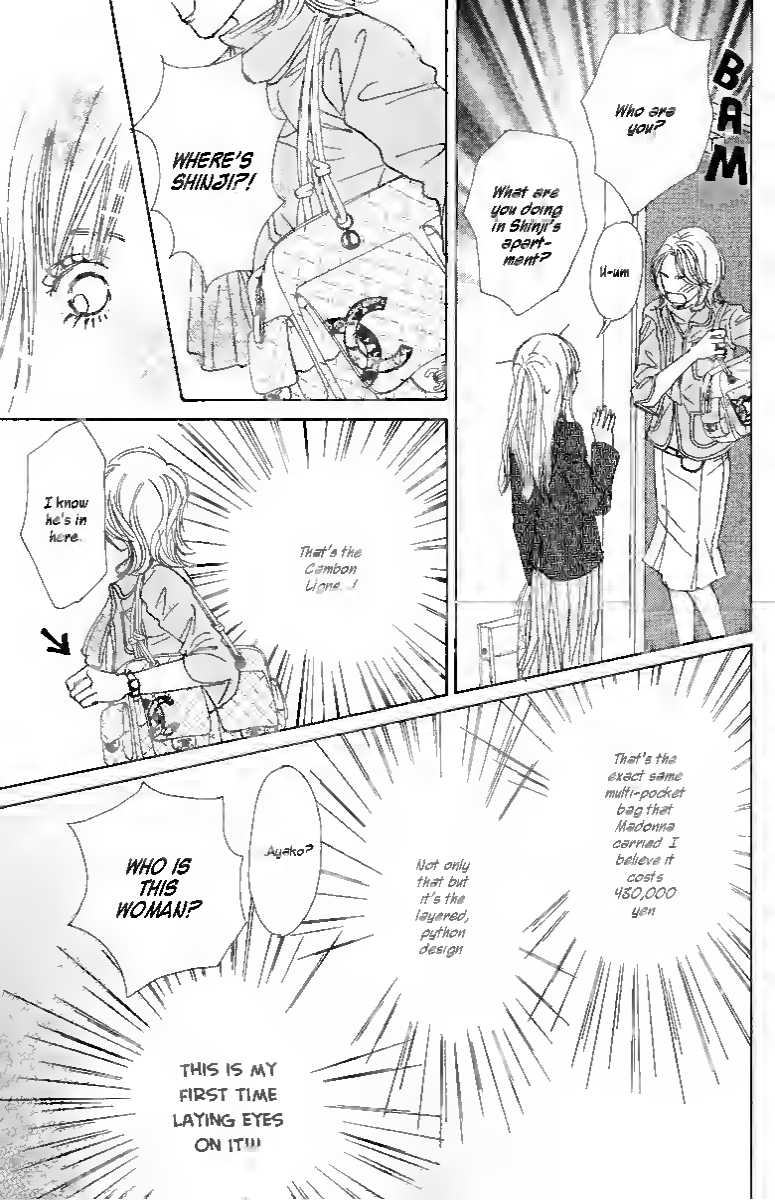
THE HILLS!! THEY'RE GREEN!
Obviously
You must have seen Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Tower before

bwip
QUESTION!!
How could you afford to live in a place like this when you work for our company?
I don't spend my money on clothes and shoes like you do, that's why.
All I do is save up steadily and add it to my 25 year loan. Every month the refund is always less than the rent, you see.
Owning real estate is an asset after all and gives a sense of security.
Well, then, I'll be sleeping in this corner
Just think of me as luggage.
Or as a cute doll
.....
.....
My boss's hair
A woman
with zero fortune
Quite right
A woman with
zero sense of stability
Sorry, but I'll have you use the living room sofa.
I don't have a guest-room
Here's your pillow
Oh, thanks.
fluff


SLAM
Good night
You're not my type so rest easy
The city is sparkling radiantly
How luxurious it must be to be able to have this jewel-like night-view all to oneself

I'd like to live in a place like this someday
I'm just dreaming though
tip toe
slip—
Seems like Okuzono-san is still asleep
This is my chance to leave

CLACK
CLACK
!
CLACK
Shinji, are you awake?
I know it's for the sake of my Cambon Line, but that was a bold move
Now I owe Okuzono-san a debt
Uh-oh

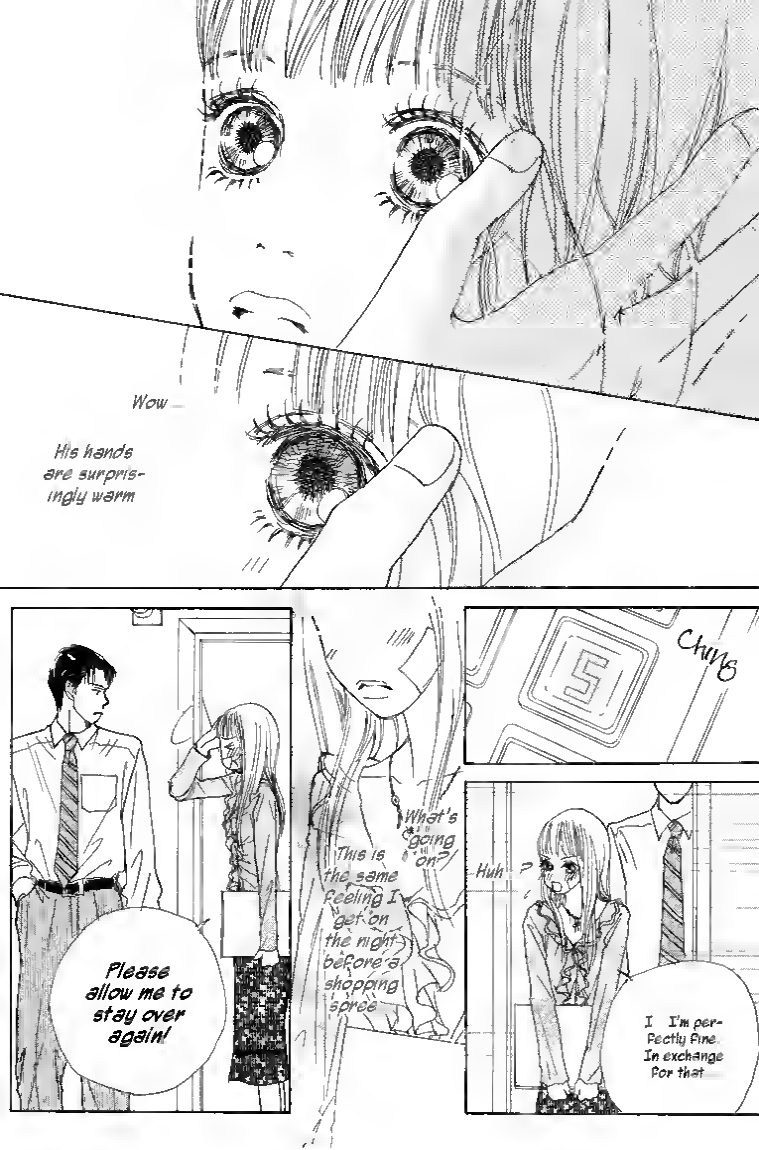

WHERE'S SHINJI?!
BAM
Who are you?
What are you doing in Shinji's apartment?
U-um
I know he's in here.
That's the Cambon Ligne...!
WHO IS THIS WOMAN?
Ayako?
Not only that but it's the layered, python design
That's the exact same multi-pocket bag that Madonna carried I believe it costs 480,000 yen
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME LAYING EYES ON IT!!!

SWISH
What do you mean? I don't believe you!
She missed the last train, so I let her stay over
Stay over?!
She's an employee in my company
With the bag...
BAM
STOP IT!
DON'T!
The poor thing...
(The bag, that is.)

THWACK
What
STOP IT, AYAKO!
flinch
I suspected something strange was going on before!
Calm down, won't you?
Wow

Is this what people call a lovers' quarrel?
This is also the first
RISE RECO

But it was just a misunderstanding
I tried to explain, but she wouldn't believe me
Well, things got kind of complicated
Just because of what happened this morning? Isn't that a bit too fast?!
WHAT? YOU BROKE UP?!
As expected from the Iceman.
She was your girlfriend...
B-but are you okay with things ending like that?
That must have stung...
I'm sorry


Wow...
His hands are surprisingly warm
Please allow me to stay over again!
This is the same feeling I get on the night before a shopping spree
What's going on?
Chuns
Huh
I... I'm perfectly fine. In exchange for that...

And Fuu scores a room with a night view!
...
But you wouldn't be able to walk unless you held my hand
Of course. If I want to arrive safely at the Chanel counter, I can't be looking at anything else
and then your careless attention will stray toward the handbag and import shoes shop, won't it?
There's no choice. One step into the store and we're bombarded with the Prada and Dolce&Gabbana shops, and even if we cut through there, we'll hit the cosmetic counter, where they'll have new colors laid out ready to attack me,
Do you really have to go into the store with this on?
"Chrome name jeans"
We'll be picked up by Jill and Mark and Tsumi."
.....
And that'll be the end for us!
Managing to reach the 3rd floor is almost like a sort of penance for me
And after you get off the 2nd floor escalator, the Chloe and Blue Girl shops are on the left side. If we turn over there by mistake, we'll get caught up in a whirlpool of denim
Eyemask...

TIME FOR DEPAR-TURE!
Okay, I'm ready.
You look totally suspicious, Fuu!
Staaare
Stare
Stare
W-wa-a, Mizuho, where are you?
They're having a sample sale at Bernies
Excuse me, what's this line for?
A SAMPLE SALE?!
BERNIES?
Hm?
What's going on over there?

tac
tac
tac
tac
GYAHH! This is unbelievable!
SOOOOO CHEAP!
Look, look! The Marc Jacobs boots were 70 percent off
I got the Marni handbag
I went for the Balenciaga knit top and Chloe skirt too!
Gasp!
What should I do? I bought all this with the money from my Cambon Ligne savings
Ehhhhh?!
I wanted that one, did...

Will it even be in stock by that time...?
You can always save up the money again
Ha
Of course
I'm such an idiot
in order to buy the things that I adore.
I will continue working everyday
住友
I'm going to sleep with these boots tonight ♡
Fuu, that's just weird
There is still more to come of Fuus shopaholic ways

Just as the earth spins
and the hours revolve
in the farthest reaches
of the galaxy, and even
over us humans

Tokyo Alice Volume 1, Chapter 1

Thanks to Chiya Toriko
& Stiletto Heels' Staff
Hatsumimi (trans)
Kim (edits)
iamdea (Qc)

SHOPPING : 2

Arisugawa Fuu
Blood Type O,
26 years old
Works as an OL (office lady) for a design company linked to a restocking company

Enjouji Sayuri
Blood Type B,
25 years old
A receptionist at an art gallery

Hi, everyone. My name is Chiya Toriko. ♡

After several years, I've finally started a new series. It's also the first time I'm with Kodansha. I've had requests from Kodansha before, but they just never became fulfilled... but I now finally have one volume out.

My editors until now had always been male, but this time my editor is a woman, who is as much of a shopaholic (?) as me, and on most occasions when we meet, will ask, "What have you bought?" So then she decided, "Okay! We'll go with a shopping theme!" for my story. The main character, Fuu, has no self-awareness, but that's because she's a girl that hasn't experienced a real love. She's pretty much still at a junior-high school level inside. So that's the setting of the story. And surprisingly (?), because I like Miyazaka*'s anime, there is a bit of otaku in it too (laughs). I look forward to seeing what kind of romances and shopping experiences these four will have in the future!!

Blood Type AB,
26 years old
Sakuragawa Rio
Heart Physician

Blood Type A,
26 years old
Haneda Mizuho
Shoujo Mangaka

The four of them came from the same junior high.

TORIKO C
2006. 9

Under that canvas of scattering cherry blossoms,

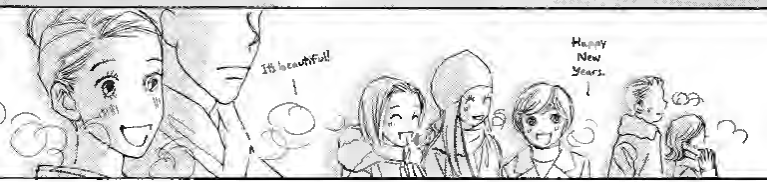
The object of my desire remains unchanged since that time

it was as if we were trying to grab onto our whole life's worth of destinies.

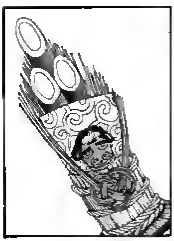
We were 13 years old

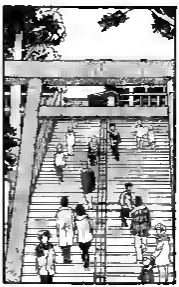
First sunrise

of the new year



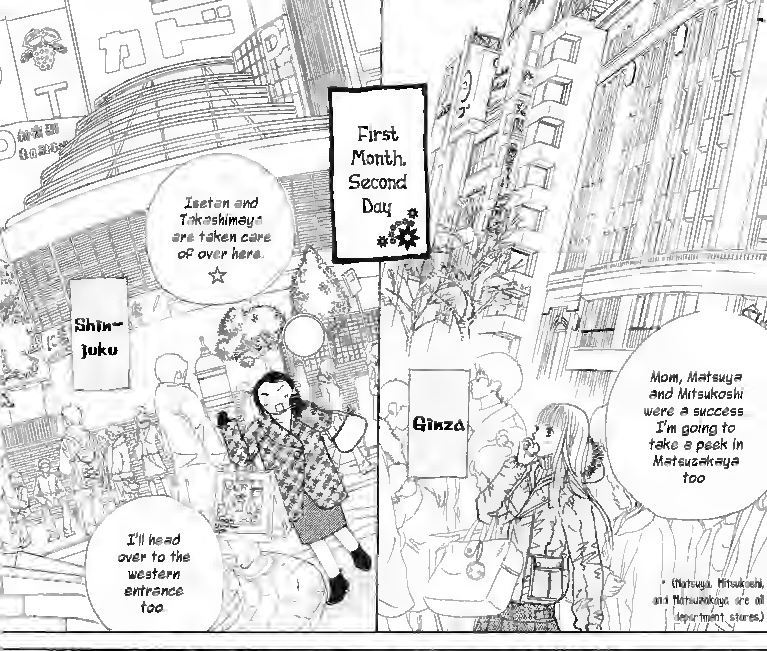
New Year's Day

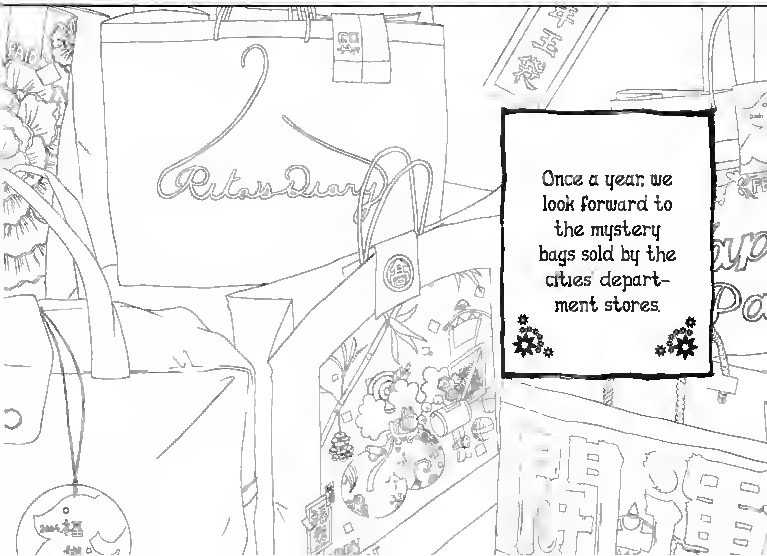


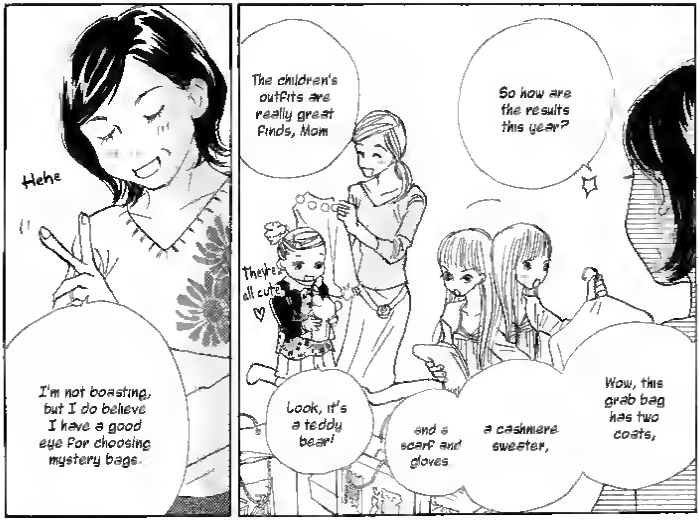


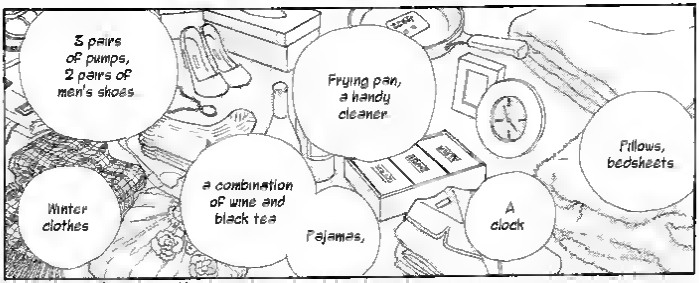
First month, first day

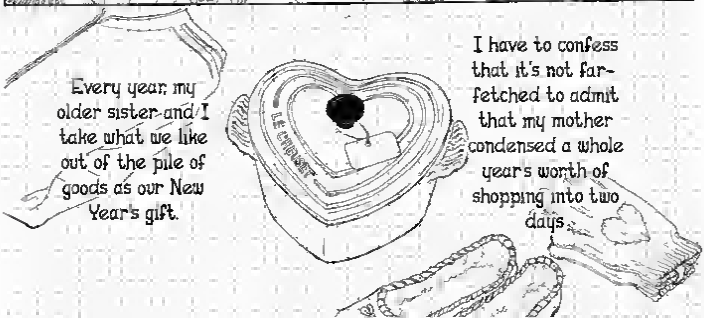
Every year the first day of shopping for the Arisugawa family always begins in Ikebukuro
Fuu, look! I bought three of them!
Over here, mom!
Wow, what a big catch. ♡
I knew it was the right decision to split up and line up at the eastern and western entrances ♪
We'll have to do the best we can again tomorrow at Ginza and Shinjuku!


First Month, Second Day
Shin-juku
Ginza
Isetan and Takashimaya are taken care of over here.
I'll head over to the western entrance too
Mom, Matsuya and Mitsukoshi were a success. I'm going to take a peek in Matsuzakaya too
* (Matsuya, Mitsukoshi, and Matsuzakaya are all department stores.)

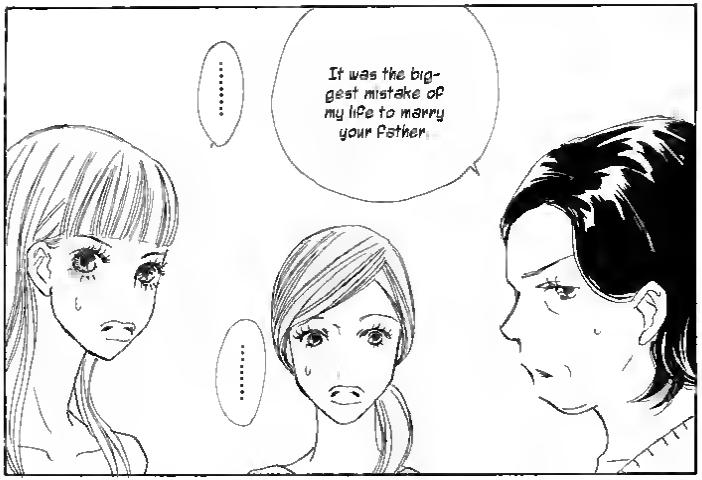

Once a year we look forward to the mystery bags sold by the cities' department stores.

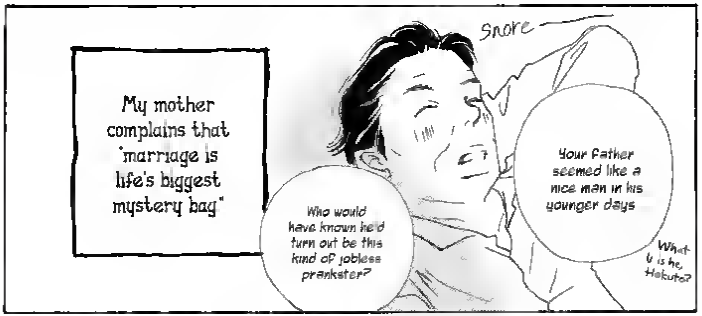

Hehe
I'm not boasting, but I do believe I have a good eye for choosing mystery bags.
The children's outfits are really great finds, Mom
So how are the results this year?
They're all cute ♡
Look, it's a teddy bear!
and a scarf and gloves
a cashmere sweater,
Wow, this grab bag has two coats,

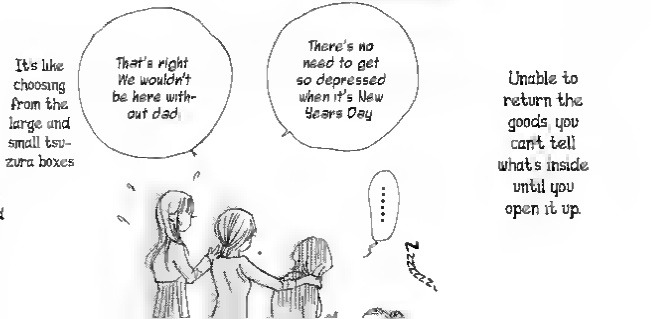

3 pairs of pumps, 2 pairs of men's shoes
Frying pan, a handy cleaner
Pillows, bedsheets
Winter clothes
a combination of wine and black tea
Pajamas,
A clock

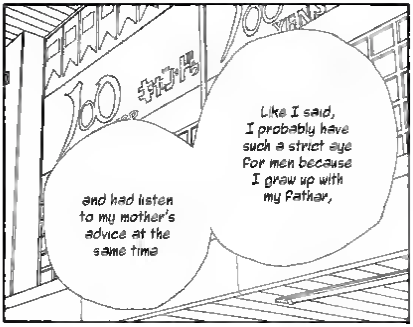

Every year, my older sister and I take what we like out of the pile of goods as our New Year's gift.
I have to confess that it's not far-fetched to admit that my mother condensed a whole year's worth of shopping into two days.

Yeah
I can take all of the children's clothes, right?
Wow, it's so difficult to choose
But you don't even cook
Sis, this thing costs 200,000 yen!! Mom really caught a big one this time!
Th... this is a Le Creuset nabe pot. The real thing?! Mom, I want this!!
LE CREUSET
This ability (?) was stronger when I was younger.
It's all instinct guessing which one is packed with the good stuff!
Mom, you get more skilled every year at lining up for mystery bags.
I suppose
Grandpa
let's play!

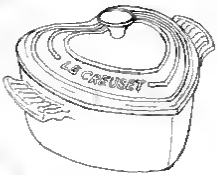

It was the biggest mistake of my life to marry your father
.....
.....


My mother complains that "marriage is life's biggest mystery bag"
Snore
Your father seemed like a nice man in his younger days
What is he, Hakuto?
Who would have known he'd turn out be this kind of jobless prankster?

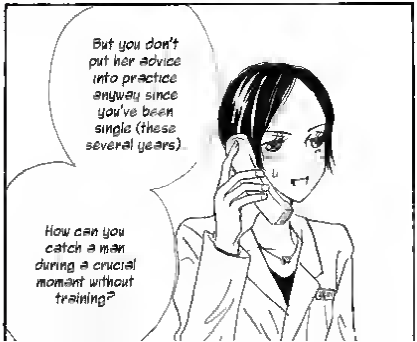

It's like choosing from the large and small tsuzura boxes
That's right We wouldn't be here without dad
There's no need to get so depressed when it's New Years Day
Unable to return the goods you can't tell what's inside until you open it up
belonging to the good fortune-cutting sparrow
.....
Zzzzzz

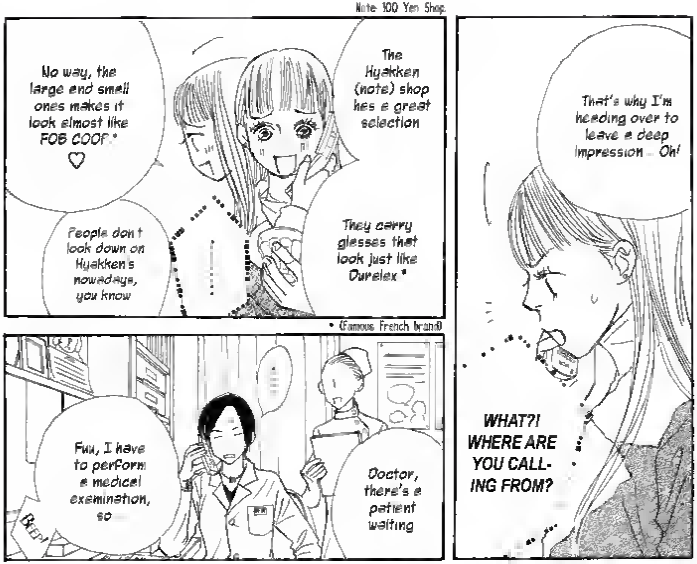

Like I said, I probably have such a strict eye for men because I grew up with my Father,
and had listen to my mother's advice at the same time

The gold or silver hatchet



It's the mystery of trying not to catch the wrong item in life's biggest shopping spree


But you don't put her advice into practice anyway since you've been single (these several years)
How can you catch a man during a crucial moment without training?


※ (furniture store)
Note: 100 Yen Shop
No way, the large and small ones makes it look almost like FOB COOP.♡
The Hyakken (note) shop has a great selection
People don't look down on Hyakken's nowadays, you know
They carry glasses that look just like Duralex *
* (Famous French brand)
That's why I'm heading over to leave a deep impression... Oh!
WHAT?! WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?
Fuu, I have to perform a medical examination, so...
Doctor, there's a patient waiting

Fuu,

are you really moving?

Next person, please...
Couldn't she afford it? I mean, isn't it better to have the real thing?
Aren't Duralex generally 200 to 300 yen for one?
Fuu's got her direction of interest all wrong.

I thought we'd be able to spend our senior year together
Yeah
But...
Awww don't cry Muzuho
I can't really do anything about it because of my dad's job
Even if we become grown-ups
We'll always remain friends
I thought we'd be together forever
Even if our schools are different

Always

Ah

It's snowing

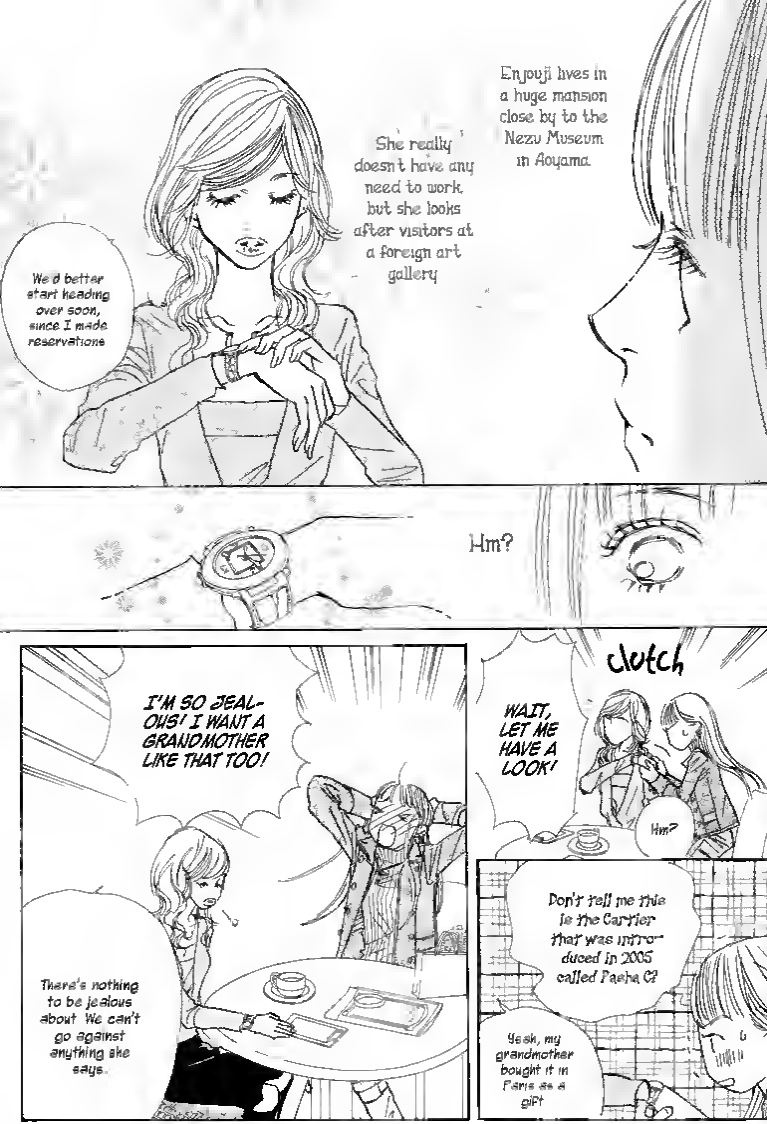
Oh, here it is.

I've heard that this school is for very wealthy young ladies
Wow, this brings back memories Okuzono-san, this was my junior high school
That's right My father's business was prosperous at the time, although he ended up getting bankrupt afterward
Aha ha ha
Oh, look at those uniforms
But I'm still concerned about what happened the other day
I'll pass
So my junior high school friends were all pretty much from amazing families Maybe I should introduce you to one of them?
There's a girl that seems like your type I'll be meeting up with her
How do you know she's my type?
Your last girlfriend is your type right?
What, am I wrong?
.....

We were still dreaming our futures at that time
I wonder what sort of person we'll end up marrying?
I'd like someone nice
Me too
I wonder if I'll ever meet anyone like that
Yeah, yeah.
And I would love him so, so much.
That's a priority
As long as he treasures me more than anything else in the world

One day..
Enjouji!
TAP TAP TAP
She's late
Fuu, you're late! At least send me a text message I'm totally starving!
Sorry, sorry I came to the train station on time
but I didn't realize the station in Omotesando had been remodelled...
Oh, yeah, I heard that they finished remodelling at the end of last year...

Wow, I didn't know so many shops lined Omotesando Station.
It's just like an amusement park ♡
What should I do, I want to go in every shop
This is way better than when Roppongi Hills was complete.
Take a look at this. There was a lingerie shop too
I see, how cute
Not only that, but they're inexpensive
You haven't changed, Fuu
Huh? Are you saying I've gained more weight?
No, I'm not talking about your outward appearance
Was chubby when she was younger


Enjouji lives in a huge mansion close by to the Nezu Museum in Aoyama.
She really doesn't have any need to work, but she looks after visitors at a foreign art gallery
We'd better start heading over soon, since I made reservations
Hm?
clutch
WAIT, LET ME HAVE A LOOK!
Hm?
Don't tell me this is the Cartier that was introduced in 2005 called Pasha C?
Yeah, my grandmother bought it in Paris as a gift
I'M SO JEALOUS! I WANT A GRANDMOTHER LIKE THAT TOO!
There's nothing to be jealous about. We can't go against anything she says.

CAFE
What? Don't tell me you're still going on those omiai's?
I have another one coming up this Sunday
For the Enjoji household, all marriage mates have to be graduates of Tokyo University
I don't really understand the wealthy people way of thinking
All of her cousins had arranged marriages, and all of them were decided on by her maternal grandmother
I'm already dating someone though
What... and you're still going on an omiai?!
That's because my boyfriend is a Tokyo U graduate
My grandmother won't allow it...
Anyway, I think that marriage and love are two separate things
It's not like I want to marry my current boyfriend

Going on omiai's are very casual, almost like a blind date.
You meet one on one
You think so?
He looks much better than I imagined. Doesn't his face seem refreshing to you?
I thought he'd be a bald, fat guy

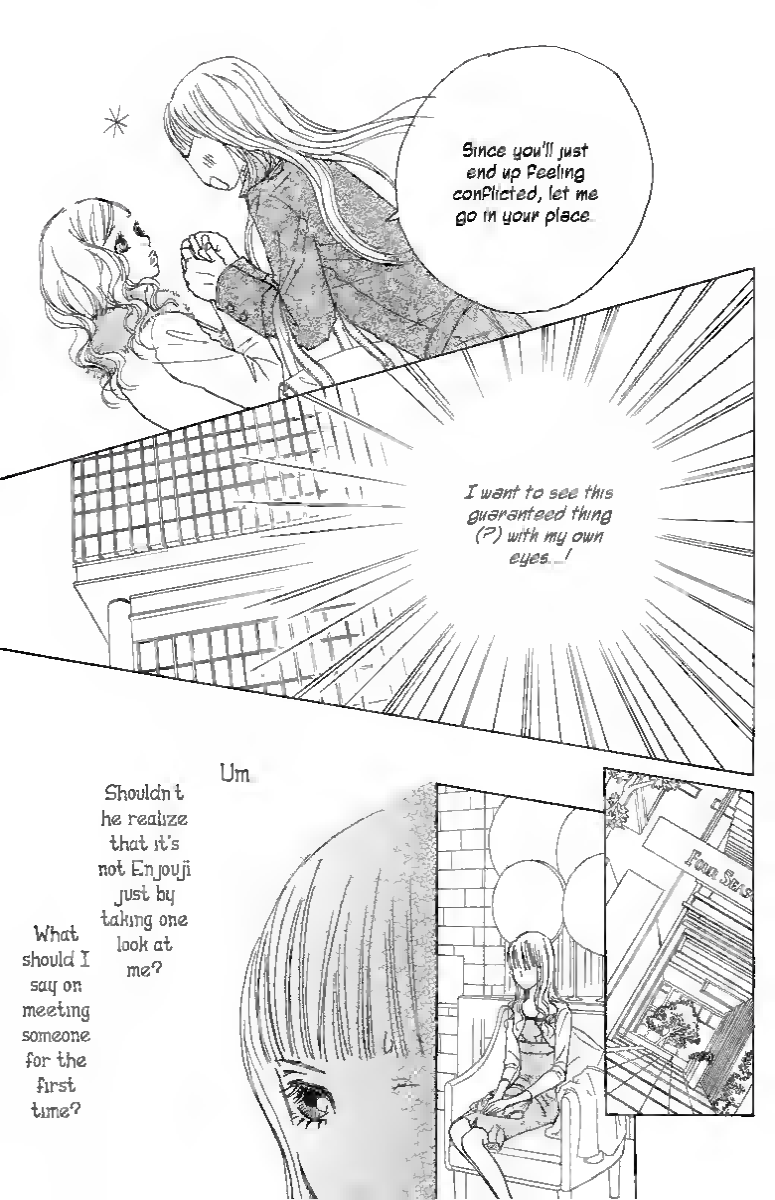
Enjoyji used to be the most pure-hearted of us all...
Do you want to see a photo of the guy I'm meeting on the omiai?
Now she's become so cold
A person who treasures me more than anything

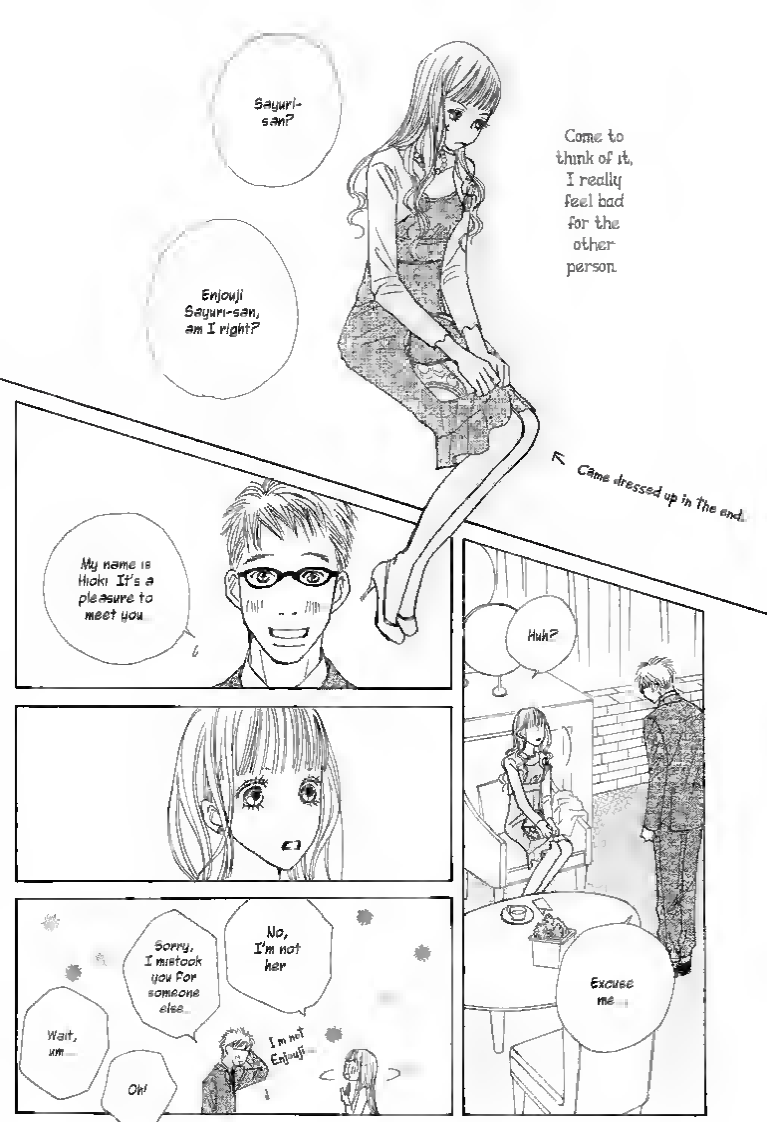
.....
He works for an insurance company for imported goods

ENJOUJI!
CLASP

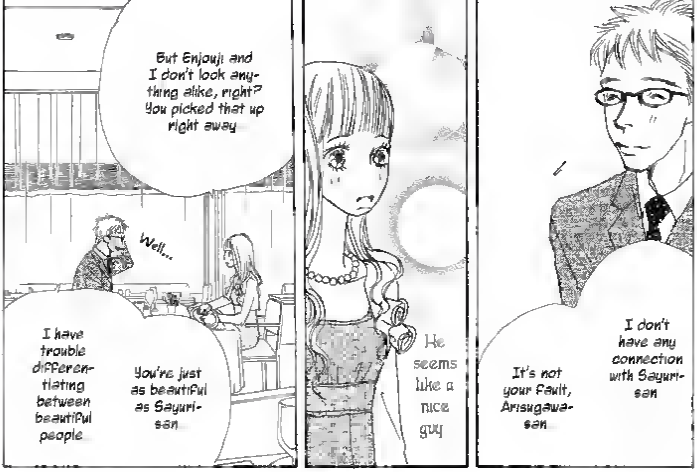
Mystery bag?

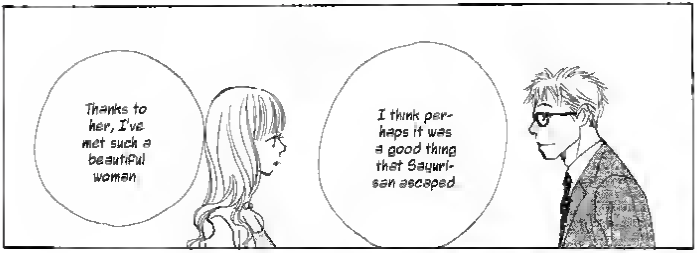
SKRATCH
SKRATCH
I've never been to an omiai before,
but it'd be considered a mystery bag with a guarantee, right?


Since you'll just end up feeling conflicted, let me go in your place.
I want to see this guaranteed thing (?) with my own eyes...!
Um
Shouldn't he realize that it's not Enjouji just by taking one look at me?
What should I say on meeting someone for the first time?
Four Seasons


Sayuri-san?
Enjouji Sayuri-san, am I right?
Come to think of it, I really feel bad for the other person.
Came dressed up in the end.
My name is Itoki. It's a pleasure to meet you.
Huh?
Excuse me...
Sorry, I mistook you for someone else...
No, I'm not her
Wait, um...
Oh!
I'm not Enjouji...

So that's what happened.


But Enjouji and I don't look anything alike, right? You picked that up right away
Well...
I have trouble differentiating between beautiful people
You're just as beautiful as Sayuri-san
He seems like a nice guy
It's not your fault, Arisugawa-san
I don't have any connection with Sayuri-san

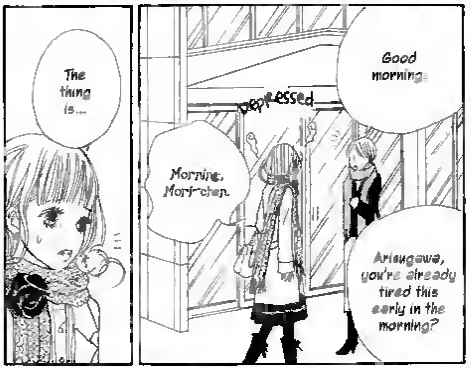

Thanks to her, I've met such a beautiful woman
I think perhaps it was a good thing that Sayuri-san escaped

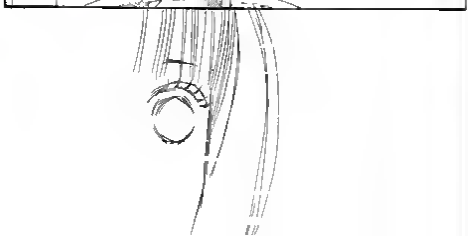
Seriously?

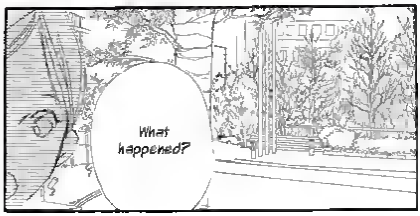
Just like a foreigner
After that, this man named Hioki Taichi (32) continued praising me for god knows how long...
You have a great smile
You're extremely adorable!
You have an adorable voice
Your hair is wavy, just like an angel's
Yick
To God?!
I should thank God for such a coincidence
You're over-exaggerating, Hioki-san
You must be joking
It's true
Anyway, at least it's come to an end
Thank you for tonight
I will tell Enjoy!
Would you like to start dating with a view to marriage?
When did I become such a hottie?!
How strange I didn't think I was so gorgeous. (Even though I try to be.)
That's impossible.
Isn't he supposed to be a guaranteed catch?
Hmmmmm
LADIES
4
fshhh

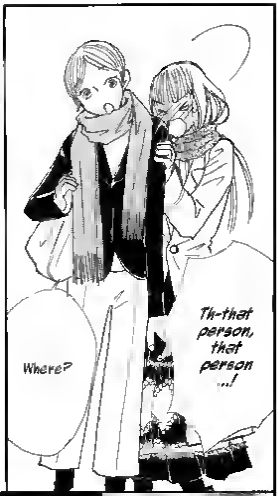
GRASP
WHAT?
We were destined to meet.
Le...
Let go of.....
SWITCH
I love you.
I'll definitely make you happy.

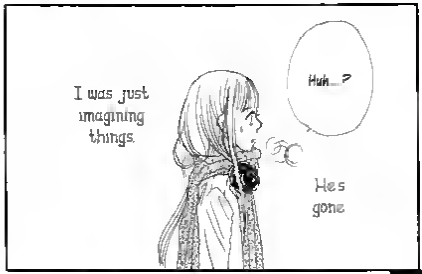
Don't betray me.
LET GO OF ME!
Arisu-gawa-san!
This person's really creepy
Why?! Why couldn't he be a certified person?!
Waaah, Enjou!!
Why aren't you picking up?
You idiot!
Your call could not be connected...

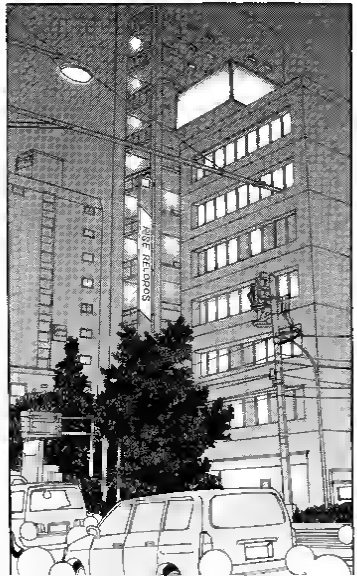

The thing is...
Morning, Mori-chan.
depressed
Good morning.
Arisugawa, you're already tired this early in the morning?


Waaaaaah!


What happened?


Th-that person, that person ...!
Where?


I was just imagining things.
Huh...?
He's gone


ROSE HOUSE

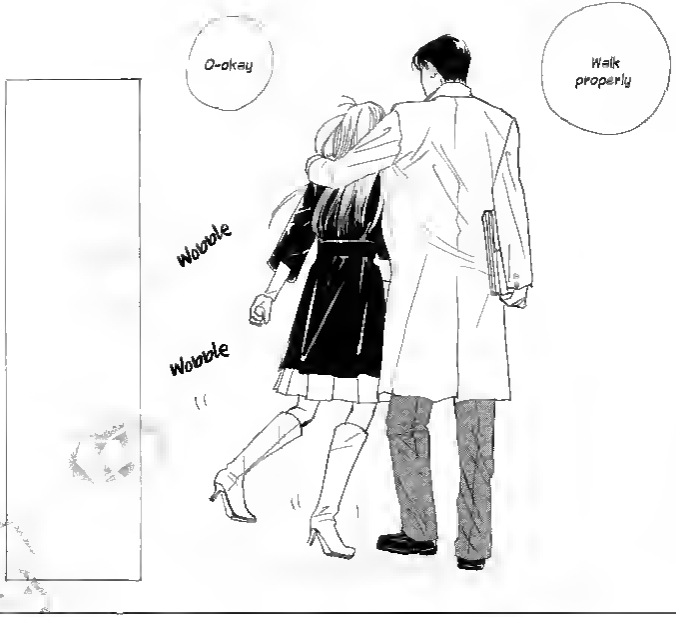
I've never had a good eye for men, but...
...this makes me feel like my age is catching up to me.
Is this punishment for peeking into another person's mystery bag?
But, but that man is dangerous for En, you know too

Oh, crap, he's following me
DASH!

NO WAY!
I love you.
Hold on.
I DON'T LOVE YOU!
Someone, please help
Kyaaahhhh!
Woah!
Arisugawa? It's me.

Slump
Arisugawa?
What happened?
Okuzono-san...
Well, let's get you home Stand up
What? B-but...
SNIFF
I've learned my lesson...
That's what you get For playing around...

At times like this, just let him think you're with another guy.
Huh?
He might still be outside.
Grab
Like this



And then I received a message of apology from Enjouji.

Perhaps Hioki-san gave up after seeing that because he didn't show up in front of me again.

For one whole week after that, Okuzono-san commuted to and from work with me

You must think it's strange for someone of my age
I've always had a hard time getting close to guys I've dated
I see...
You're just paranoid. All you need to do is ignore that kind of guy
Becker's
That's why I think what happened was my fault
I'm a bit off somehow
Then why don't you just become my girlfriend?
B-but I remembered forcing you to let me stay overnight
Come to think of it, that was really thoughtless of me
I'm not even your girlfriend, but I lack common sense
And then I had the gall to to ask if you would let me stay over again

I'm okay with that
Why are you joking at a time like this?!
I'm totally serious!
SLUMP
.....
Wh...

Fuu.

Okuzono-san!

Are you listening?!

Fuu, what kind of person do you want to marry?

No .. I get it already

I'd like someone who won't bend easily to my will.

What are you saying?

We can't understand you!

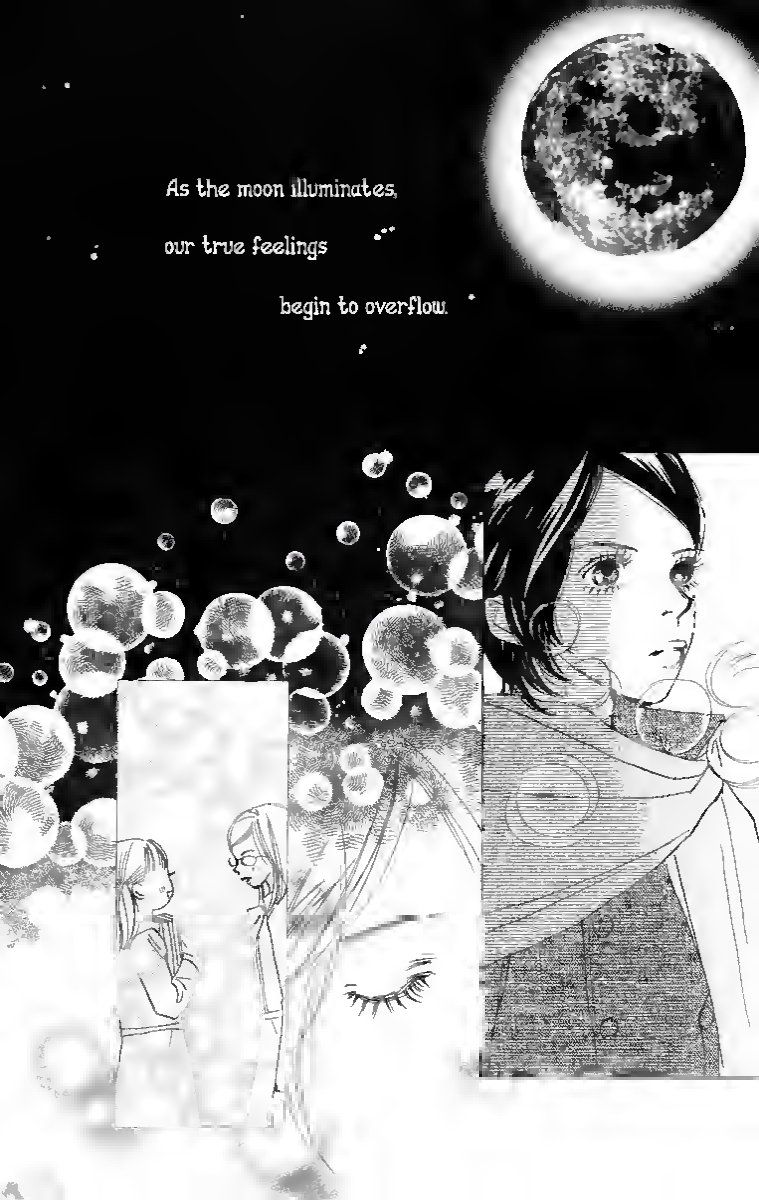
Aha ha ha

Tokyo Alice Volume 1, Chapter 2

Thanks to Chiya Toriko
& Stiletto Heels' Staff
Hatsumimi (trans)
Kim (edits)
iamdea (Qc)

SHOPPING : 3

At night, there's no intrusion from the sun's rays, and it feels almost as if the atmosphere is gone. The sky becomes outer space.
That's why it's dangerous at night.
There's a chance that we could unintentionally uncover our hidden feelings.


As the moon illuminates,
our true feelings
begin to overflow.

February
In Tokyo,
it's snowing
chocolates.

Valentine2005
Valentine2005
Valentine2005
Valentine2005
Valentine2005
This place is packed!
Why are there so many people here just for chocolates...?
Huh? Fuu? Where are you?
Fuu?

chuckle
chuckle
Geez, all the chocolates are so adorable!
Are you planning to buy all that?
There's Pierre Herme and La Maison du Chocolat ♡
I can't choose!
RIO, THANKS FOR WAITING! ♡
Godiva and Balaguer ♡
Jean-Paul Hevin, Pierre Marcolini, and even Sadaharu Aoki.
Ahh, how wonderful! A tour in Europe with chocolates. ♡

Oi's have it pretty tough having to buy all these chocolates
It's a work of art! The Koala March chocolates too
But I thought you liked Kinoko no Yama the most
What are you talking about? These are all for me to eat
Maybe I should hand some of these out
I thought so
Aha ha ha
Don't wanna gain weight
Eating all these might be overdoing it, huh?
I thought you'd be able to find someone special to give chocolates to this year
I'm not boasting, but I've never given chocolates to a guy before

Come to think of it, I remember you getting a lot of chocolates from girls in junior high
I still do, from nurses and patients
I see...
You're pretty amazing for being a female doctor, Rio
You were an ace student and had always been good at studying
To be honest, I admired you a bit too. ♡
Hehe
What are you saying?
Quit that

I prefer comfort.

More than the thrill of strategizing in the game of romance

A moment exchanged between two female friends who are close at home with one another

But I know that things won't stay this way forever

But,

Just for now.

It's freezing!

Hurry and get inside!

Doctor Sakuragawa!
Oh, uh...
thud
Doctor!
thud thud
About that move...
The examining room for child outpatients with psychosomatic disorders will be changing in March.
Here you go. I bought these chocolates from the shop downstairs.
What is it?
I'm giving chocolates too!
Heh
Just as I expected.
Popular with the kids as usual.
Jealous?

But that's just the custom here in Japan, right? I thought Valentines is a day of celebration between couples?
The number of chocolates received is important for Japanese men
Will you be giving chocolates to anyone, Doctor Sakuregawa?
No, I'm not really interested in doing that type of thing, although I do accept them myself
Even though I'm a guy... I haven't received even one chocolate yet
Aha ha
No, well normally the men get them from women
I haven't received chocolates from any men either
Well, in that case...
Yes?

I think they're pretty delicious..
Uh, these chocolates
I made them myself. They're fondant and truffles
.....
.....
.....

I can only make burnt ones.
No, that's not what I'm thinking at all. They're adorable.
Oh, I'm glad that you like them
Uh, thanks
So this means...
Um...
.....
UH, UM, UHHHH... ARE YOU THINKING THAT I SEEM LIKE A GIRL FOR WANTING YOU TO TASTE THEM?
silence...
.....
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
Oh, uh, well then, Izumi-kun...

I've been watching you for a long time.
Calm down for a moment, Izumi-kun
I'm calm. I'm extremely composed.
Doctor, are you dating anyone?
No, I'm not.
Then will you consider me?
Why not?
No.
Wow
W-wait a minute

I'm not interested in you.
Haha... It's such a cold response, I'm almost shocked.
I'm sorry for coming out cold Umm, I'm not saying there's anything wrong with you.
I just don't know how to put it
In other words...

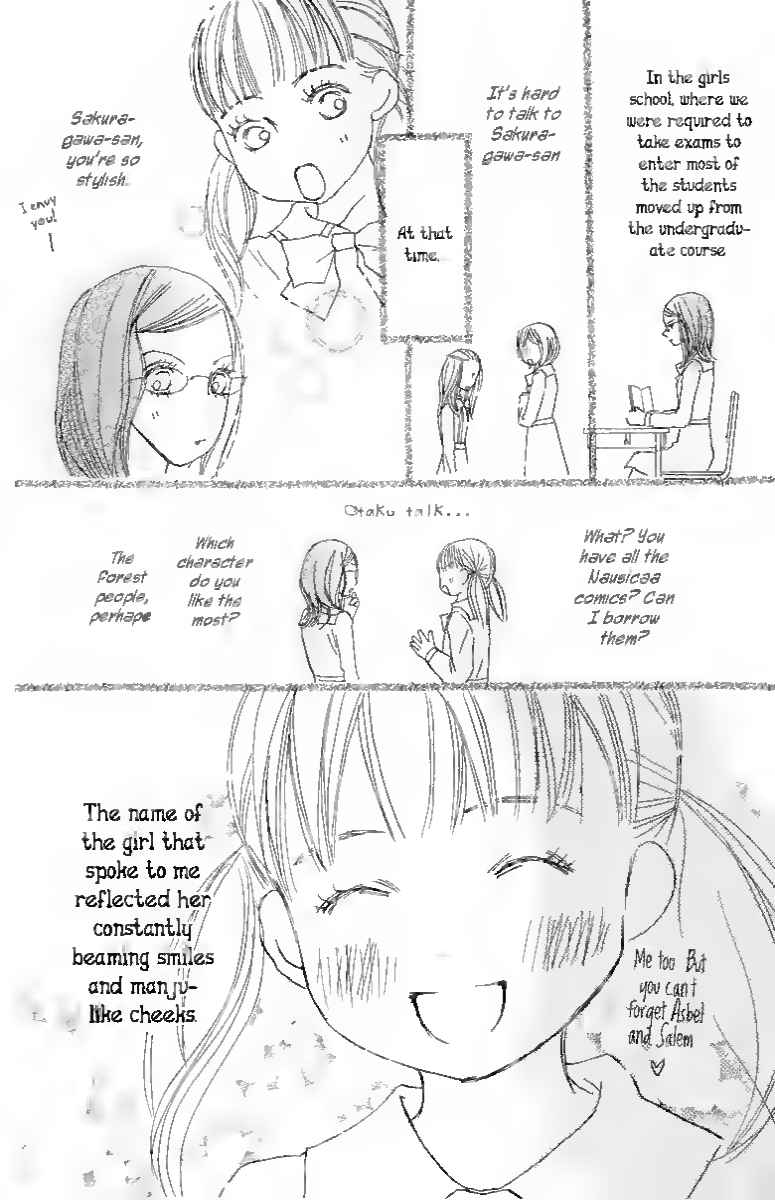
There's someone that I've been in love with for a long time
But I have no intention of confessing my feelings
I'm fine with the way things are
I mean, I could say yes to you so easily
This registered nurse Izumi-kun was watching me so intently
I found it difficult to return his gaze
I kept my head down and stared at the chocolates sitting before me.
But I don't want to do that

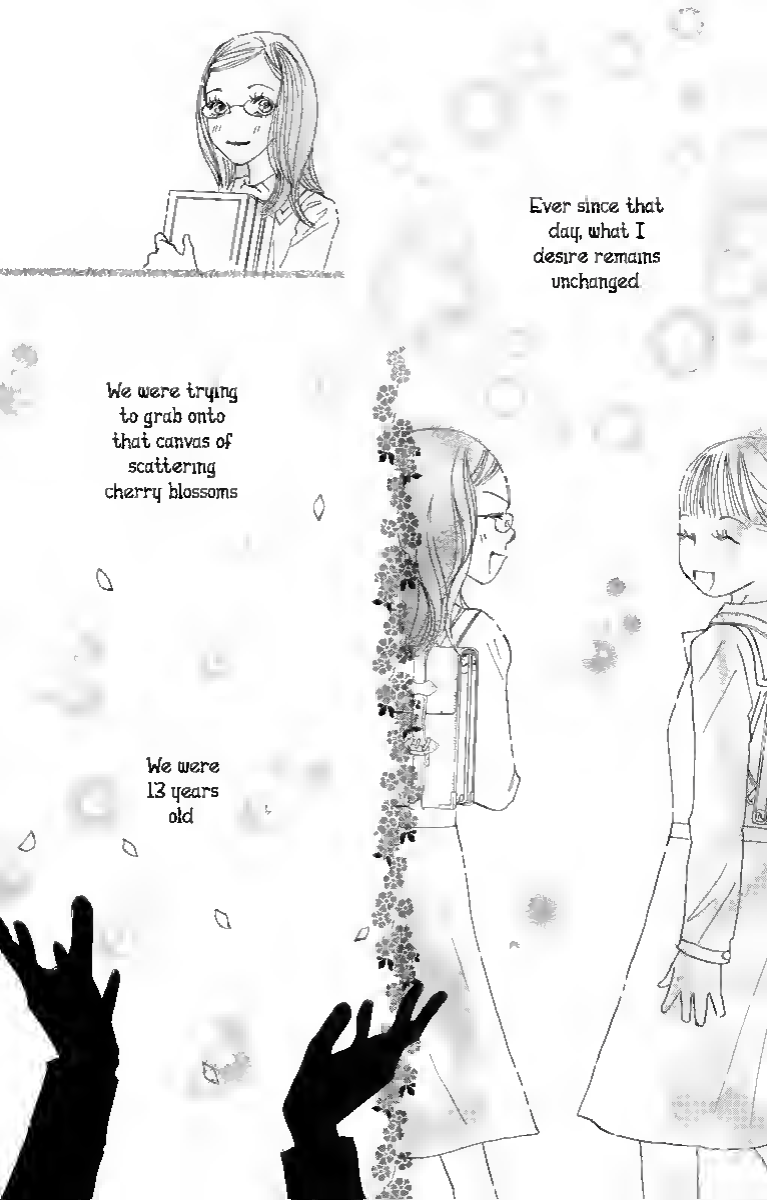
How many years has it been since a man has stared at me like this?

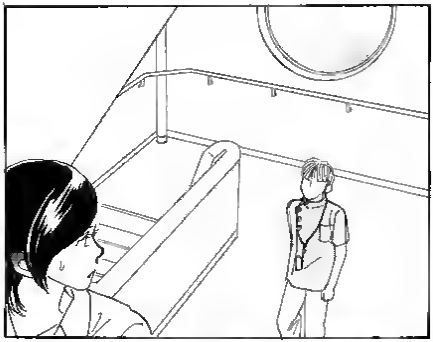
I'm sorry.

So then why do I always end up refusing?

If I just accept him here and now, something might actually change in me


Sakura-gawa-san, you're so stylish.
I envy you!
It's hard to talk to Sakura-gawa-san
At that time.
In the girls school where we were required to take exams to enter most of the students moved up from the undergraduate course
Otaku talk...
The Forest people, perhaps
Which character do you like the most?
What? You have all the Nausicaa comics? Can I borrow them?
The name of the girl that spoke to me reflected her constantly beaming smiles and manju-like cheeks.
Me too. But you can't forget Asbel and Salem ♡


Ever since that day, what I desire remains unchanged
We were trying to grab onto that canvas of scattering cherry blossoms
We were 13 years old



I'm not convinced.

Doctor Sakuragawa!

Then show me who that man is.

2

I thought we were finished with that conversation.

You don't seem like the type of woman who would hold onto unrequited feelings.

That's none of your business.

Was that just a lie to make me give up on you?

No, it isn't.

tac

I'm going through an unrequited love because he's someone I can't talk about, right?!
Don't try to shove your feelings on me!
Why?
For a long time until now,
I haven't told anyone.

OH, THEY'VE ARRIVED? I'M GLAD THEY'RE PERISHABLE GOODS AFTER ALL, SO I WAS A BIT WORRIED.
ご不在連絡票
They left me an absent notice and barely delivered it now... but what is this?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FOREST OF EXPENSIVE CHOCOLATES IN THE CENTER OF THE MUSHROOM HILL?
YOU LOVE NAUSICAA, REMEMBER? I PUT THEM TOGETHER IN THE IMAGE OF THE ROTTING SEA.
HOW CAN YOU ASK ME WHAT THEY ARE? THEY'RE CHOCOLATES, OBVIOUSLY. I BOUGHT TOO MANY YESTERDAY, SO I ARRANGED THOSE BY HAND.
Arranged

Are you trying to make me fat?
Anyway, thanks.
Yeah, yeah
YAAAAAY!
♫
I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE THEM.
I know this shouldn't be coming from me, but I think it came out pretty well.
You can eat the whole thing, you know! Amazing, huh?
♡
What do I think of the Rotting Sea?
I'M ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT MY COMPANY TO YOU, AND IF I EVER NEED ANYTHING, YOU'RE ALWAYS THE ONE I CAN GO TO FOR HELP. YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME.
SO THIS IS A HAPPY VALENTINES GIFT AS A SYMBOL OF MY GRATITUDE.
♡

I will never fall in love

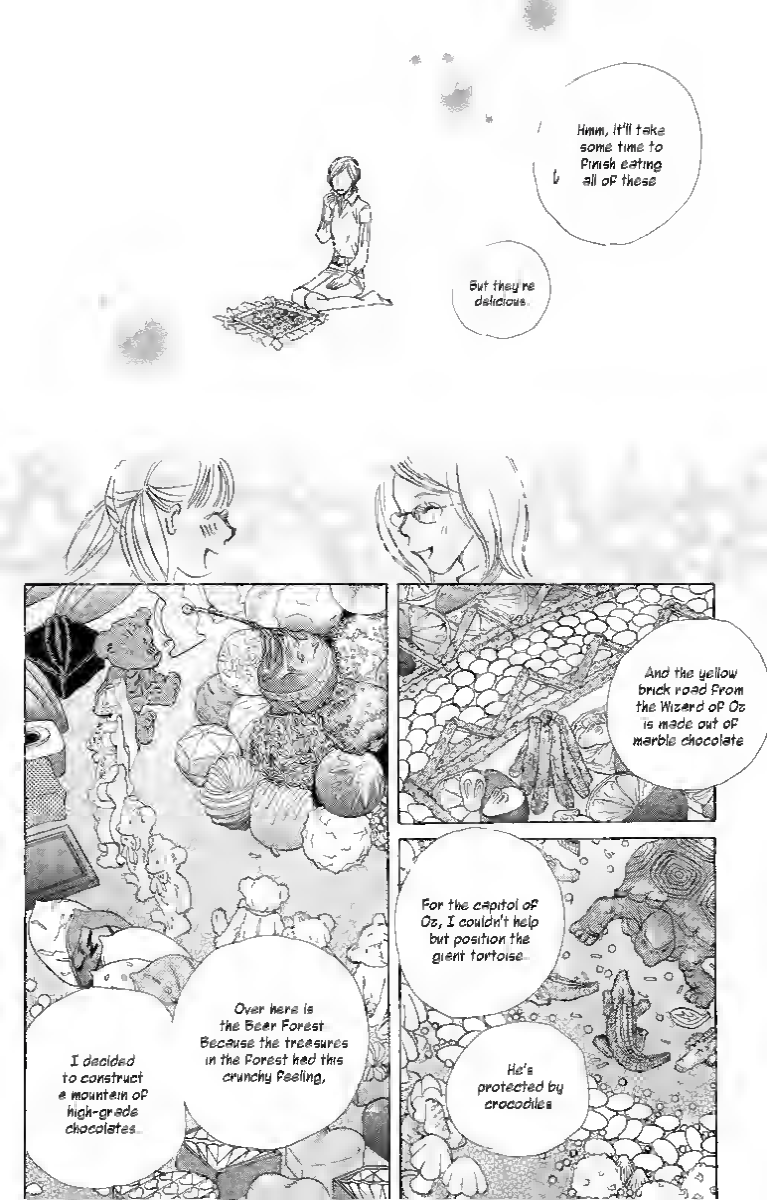
I feel a little bit lighter thinking that

Perhaps that's because I haven't experienced true love yet

We were still dreaming up our futures at that time

For some reason, Izumi-kun's straightforward eyes flashed in my mind

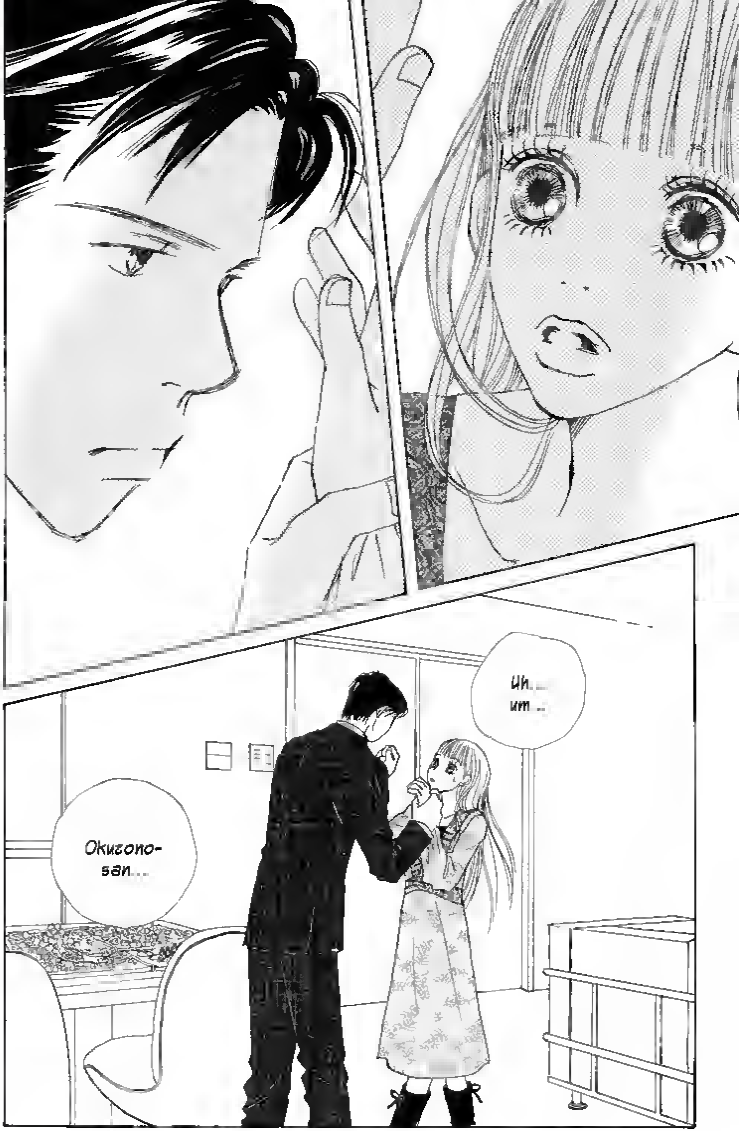
The futures we dreamed up at the time are approaching us soon
I wonder what sort of person we'll end up marrying?
There's a full moon tonight


Hmm, it'll take some time to finish eating all of these
But they're delicious
I decided to construct a mountain of high-grade chocolates
Over here is the Bear Forest. Because the treasures in the forest had this crunchy feeling,
For the capitol of Oz, I couldn't help but position the giant tortoise
He's protected by crocodiles
And the yellow brick road from the Wizard of Oz is made out of marble chocolate

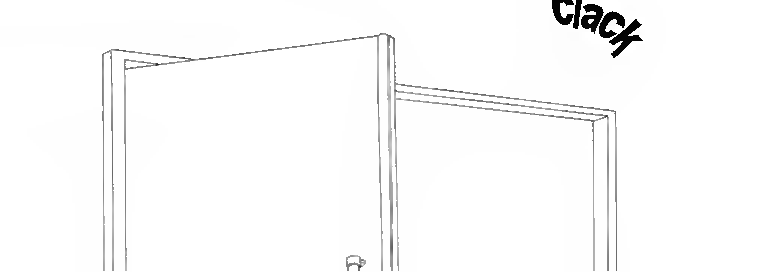
Altogether, it conjures up the image of Hansel and Gretel,
and Castle in the Sky
Clue-less
How did you bring all this to work?
I made the chocolate mountains when I got to the office.
I divided them into four pieces and put them into pizza-sized boxes
And then you assembled them here?
Exactly!
Um, um—
I made something similar for a friend who really liked it, and I didn't think simply giving you chocolates would make up for all the trouble I caused you last month, so I decided to make this by hand, and it somehow ended up this big

No!
So these are just obligation chocolates, right?
I wouldn't go through all this trouble to make obligation chocolates!!
I seriously put my heart and soul into making it.
!!!
I had wondered what you were calling me to the meeting room for
Well, I can't go showing this off to everyone else in the office.
Why can't she put this much energy into her work?
Thank you...
Then you need to express yourself more
Not like that. You're face is so emotionless, Ozukono-san
Emotionless?!
You've probably never even seen Miyazaki's animated films...
YOU MUST REALLY HATE CHOCOLATES OKUZONO-SAN.
DEPRESSED
But the amount here
No, I love chocolates
sigh
Alright, so these are the real thing?

Are you drunk, Arisugawa?
I did have some chocolate bonbons earlier. Could they possibly have liquor in them?
I can't be! Oh, but...
Hya ha ha ha
Arisugawa
STREEEETCH
Smile, like this...
Stop that
HAHAHAHA
This is so hilarious!
If you're not normally used to smiling, your cheek muscles will eventually weaken.


Ии...
ит...
Окигото-
зан...

So we'll consider this the real thing then
...Huh?


clack

What, nobody's here.
Maybe we've got the time wrong.
WAHHHH-HHHHH!
What's this?
Wasn't the design meeting supposed to be here?
Wow, these are all made of chocolates.
My choco-lateeates!
Maybe they're artwork for a photoshoot, or something?
They look badly made though.
I'll kill your boyfriend
WHAAAAT?
QUIET.

I think we're safe now
silence...
SLAM
CLACK
Let's go double check with Musha-san
Maybe it's supposed to be in Room C...
Mikuya didn't eat you.
Thank goodness you're safe. ♡
HFFFFFFFFFFFF
MY CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN!
I can't believe I tried to hide myself...
Why am I doing this during work?
Arisugawa

I'd like to hear more in detail about your explanations for these chocolates at home
What are your plans tonight?

Well then ...
I'd like to visit the special lodgings with a night view in Shibuya, please
Huh?
Where's that supposed to be?

TOKYO ALICE VOLUME 01
CHAPTER 03

– Chiya Toriko

CREDITS

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http://www.antebellum-scanlations.chanlu.org/

Tokyo Alice Volume 1, Chapter 3

Thanks to Chiya Toriko
& Stiletto Heels' Staff
Hatsumimi (trans)
Sublimekisses (edits)
iamdea (Qc)

SHOPPING : 4

I've been
thinking
lately.

whether
it's really
okay for a
26 year
old woman
to go on
like this.

It's a bit early for White Day
This is in return for the chocolates you gave me on Valentine's
Hey! Aren't these just obligatory chocolates you get from work?
You figured it out? But I know you like desserts from the convenient stores, Mizuho
punch
You-chan, you silly thing
Besides, I put the actual White Day chocolates with them
Wow, thanks! ♡
I knitted him a sweater,
and just the yarn alone cost over 20,000 yen *
And this is what he gives me in return...?
I do like them but...
* roughly 200 dollars

You're so adorable. No wonder you're my girlfriend!
CLUTCH
SLURP
SLURP
You're always catching a cold from wearing those thin clothes
I don't have much to wear, so this will be a big help
SLURP
Stare~

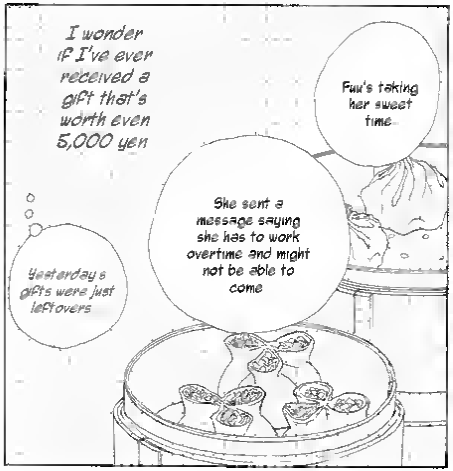
Yoneda Muzuho, second year into my debut as a shoujo mangaka. 26 years old

My boyfriend an "aspiring" musician, age 32, and a freeter*

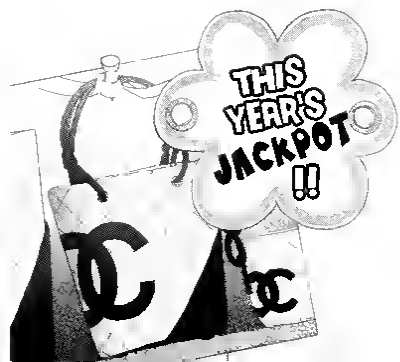
*Japanese expression for someone who lacks full time employment or is unemployed

Huh? You're asking for the most expensive thing I got from a guy?

Mine would probably be a ring
Or maybe it was those diamond ear rings?
I can't keep track of them all so I'm not too sure
One guy took me on a trip abroad, but that doesn't count as a present
Well, there was this one guy who give me a Bulgari watch, and now that you mention it, there was one that gave me a laptop
.....
* formal marriage interview
That doesn't count
Wasn't that the one you met through an omiai?!*
I refused a guy who offered to buy me a house once, too
Doesn't change the fact that he's a man
.....


I wonder if I've ever received a gift that's worth even 5,000 yen
Fuu's taking her sweet time
She sent a message saying she has to work overtime and might not be able to come
Yesterday's gifts were just leftovers

Oh, no, but I might use it for future reference for a new comic
Are you doing some sort of research?
Wow, this looks delicious
You must be having a tough time, Mizuho
I-I guess so



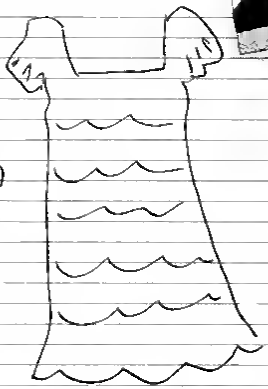
Why do I always end up dating guys without money?

☆ Spring - Summer Shopping Plan ☆

Basket Bag

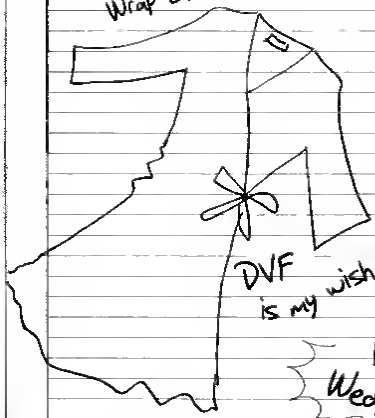
Like the Kate Spade
(The Ferragamo ones are nice too.)

A Must-Have!!
White Lace One Piece♡

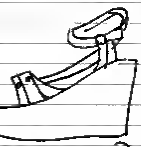


If possible, I'd like to get the Miu Miu or the Jill Stewart.

Wrap One Piece



DVF is my wish.

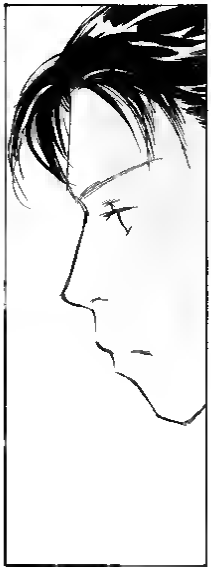


Like the Chloe one.

Wedge Heel

Definitely want this!!

She was completely absorbed in writing it up yesterday
What's this list doing attached to Arisugawa's desk?
Maybe it's some sort of leasing list for the shoot?



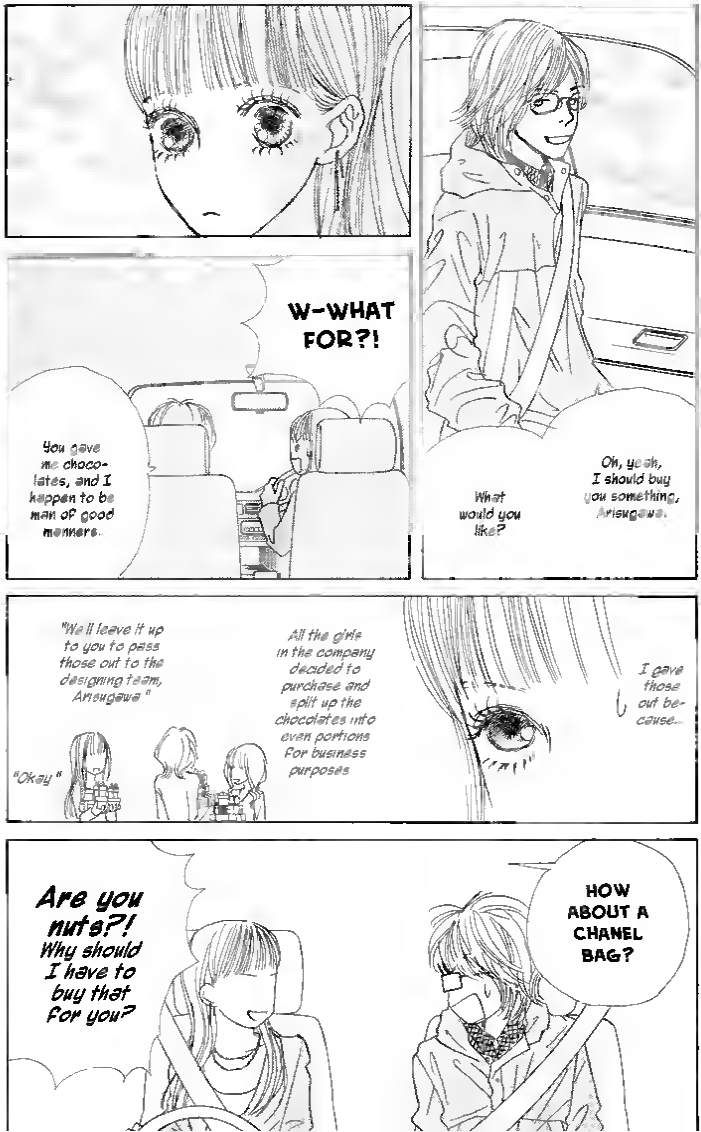
Aww, why do we have to go and meet the clients at this hour? I'm so hungry

That should be my line

Geez.

I had a date with some friends after a long time to go and eat Yum Cha too

Don't complain to me!


W-WHAT FOR?!
You gave me chocolates, and I happen to be man of good manners.
What would you like?
Oh, yeah, I should buy you something, Arisugawa.
"We'll leave it up to you to pass those out to the designing team, Arisugawa."
"Okay."
All the girls in the company decided to purchase and split up the chocolates into even portions for business purposes
I gave those out because...
Are you nuts?! Why should I have to buy that for you?
HOW ABOUT A CHANEL BAG?

"Haneda-san"
Blah
But you asked me about what I wanted!
Don't you have any modesty?!
Blah
Blah
"Excuse me"
"Please... accept this."
"Um..."
RUSTLE
I like you.

BA-DUMP
Hmmmm, it doesn't seem to resonate with the heart
The idea to use this candy wrapper is good though
Even if he tells me to make it realistic...
Please come with the fixed draft by next week
I see
The readers want a realistic romance...
I wouldn't slack off just because they're middle school kids

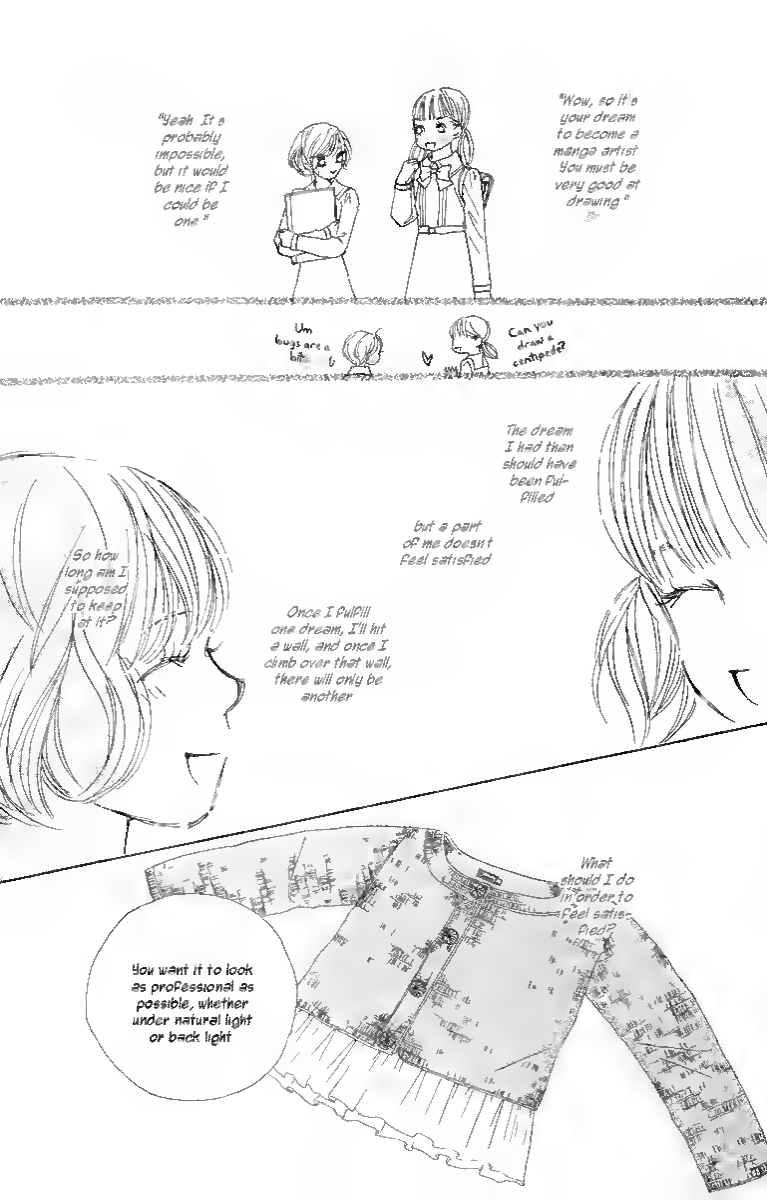
It should be simple to come out and say it

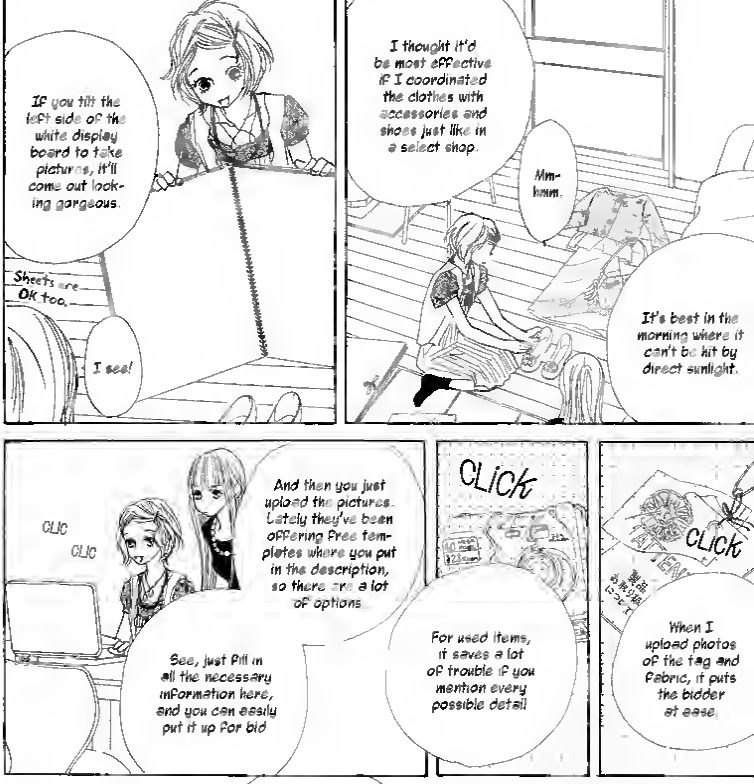
That I'm 26 years old,

and I no longer know what love looks like from a junior high school girls' viewpoint

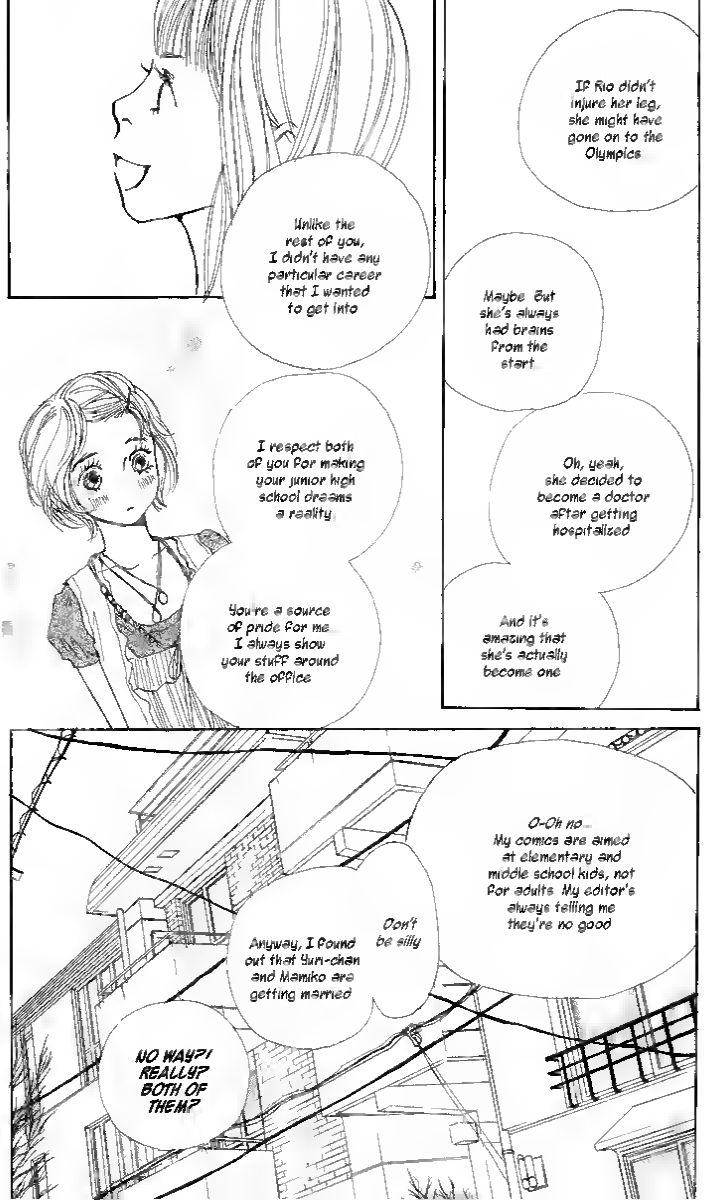
But this is my job, so I've got to hang in there

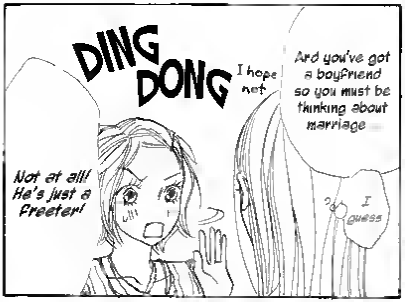
It'll be some time later before the cherry tree blossoms.
We have already become that "whatever" it was we were wondering about
when our futures were still like a dream to us


"Yeah. It's probably impossible, but it would be nice if I could be one."
"Wow, so it's your dream to become a manga artist. You must be very good at drawing."
Um, boys are a bit...
Can you draw a centaur?
The dream I had then should have been Fulfilled
but a part of me doesn't feel satisfied
So how long am I supposed to keep at it?
Once I fulfill one dream, I'll hit a wall, and once I climb over that wall, there will only be another
What should I do in order to feel satisfied?
You want it to look as professional as possible, whether under natural light or back light


If you tilt the left side of the white display board to take pictures, it'll come out looking gorgeous.
Sheets are OK too.
I see!
I thought it'd be most effective if I coordinated the clothes with accessories and shoes just like in a select shop.
Hmhmm.
It's best in the morning where it can't be hit by direct sunlight.
CLIC
CLIC
And then you just upload the pictures. Lately they've been offering free templates where you put in the description, so there are a lot of options.
See, just fill in all the necessary information here, and you can easily put it up for bid
CLICK
For used items, it saves a lot of trouble if you mention every possible detail
CLICK
When I upload photos of the tag and fabric, it puts the bidder at ease.
I drew up a Spring/Summer Wishlist, and even though it's not by much, the total still goes over my budget
I totally agree!
I thought I could sell it for more than I would get at the thrift store
Wow, this net auction stuff sounds pretty tough I wonder if I can handle it.
It'll be easier once you get used to it.

I've got so many clothes I haven't tossed out because I keep having this feeling that I'm going to wear them again some day.
Why don't you try displaying it? They've recently got this reserved bid feature.
If you use that option, you won't get a low price bid.
It's not really a trick.
So there's that sort of underhanded trick.
You make and sell clothes for dolls, right?
Wow, they're tiny but so detailed. How cute!
Your dream from middle school came true too.
I think it's amazing that you've become a full-fledged mangaka
I'm just trying to earn some extra money.
No, it's just that there's nothing else I can do.
You're so clever with your fingers, Mizuho
It's not like I always have work drawing manga

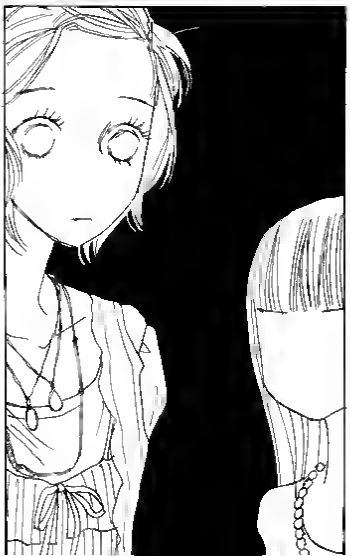

If Rio didn't injure her leg, she might have gone on to the Olympics
Maybe. But she's always had brains from the start
Oh, yeah, she decided to become a doctor after getting hospitalized
And it's amazing that she's actually become one
Unlike the rest of you, I didn't have any particular career that I wanted to get into
I respect both of you for making your junior high school dreams a reality
You're a source of pride for me. I always show your stuff around the office
O-Oh no... My comics are aimed at elementary and middle school kids, not for adults. My editor's always telling me they're no good
Don't be silly
Anyway, I found out that Yun-chan and Mamiko are getting married
NO WAY?! REALLY? BOTH OF THEM?

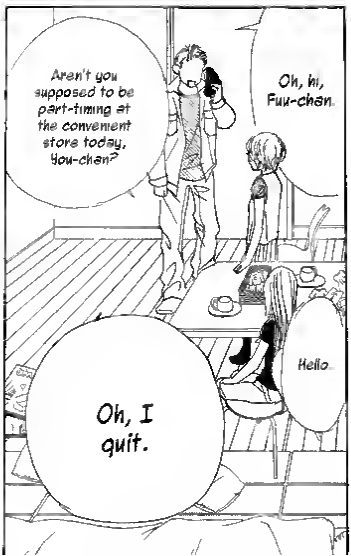

DING DONG
I hope not.
And you've got a boyfriend so you must be thinking about marriage...
I guess
Not at all! He's just a freeter!

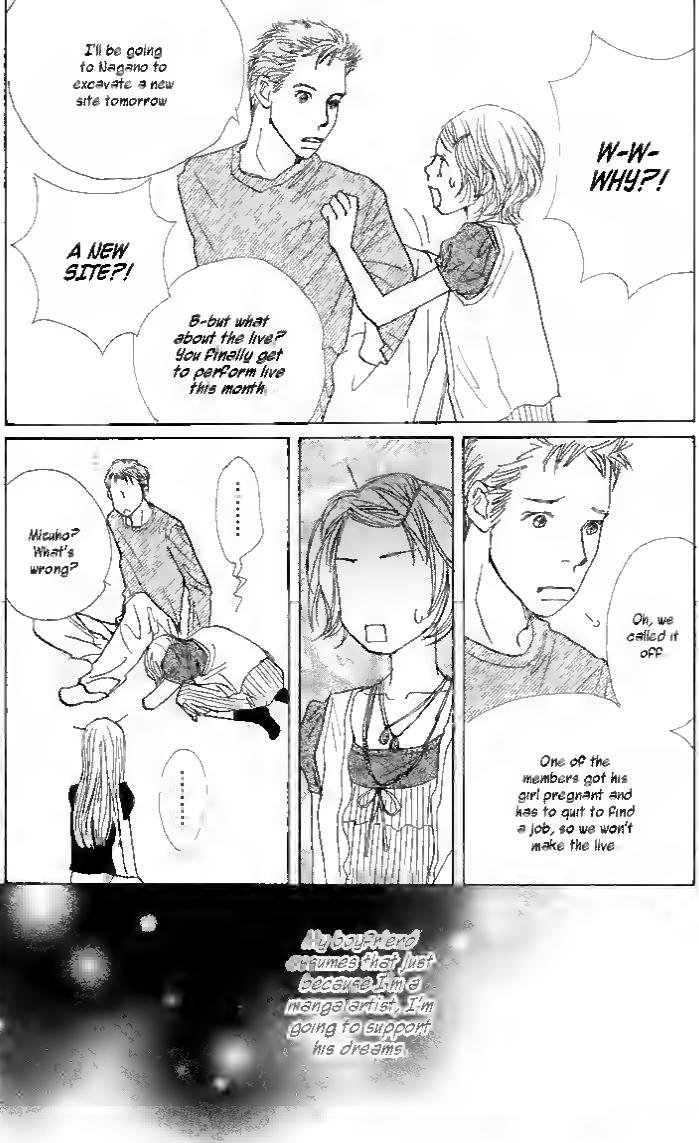
All the students that graduated from our school seem to get married so quickly.
Yup, this coming spring.
The age range for first marriages have gone up, but already ten people we know are becoming brides.

You-chan?

Clack
Slam
Mizuho, are you home?




Aren't you supposed to be part-timing at the convenient store today, You-chan?
Oh, hi, Fuu-chan.
Hello.
Oh, I quit.


I'll be going to Nagano to excavate a new site tomorrow
W-W-WHY?!
A NEW SITE?!
B-but what about the live? You finally get to perform live this month
Micuho? What's wrong?
.....
.....
Oh, we called it off
One of the members got his girl pregnant and has to quit to find a job, so we won't make the live
My boyfriend assumes that just because I'm a manga artist, I'm going to support his dreams.

I do love people who have dreams, and of course I love my boyfriend

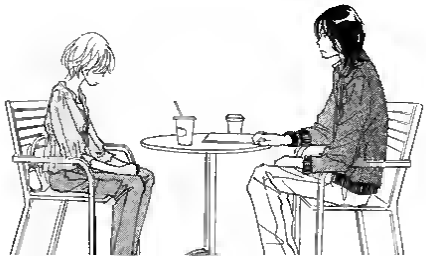
But to make up for the instability in my line of work, I want his life to be more stable

Maybe I'm expecting too much

Rustle

How can I make it more real?
You need to put more consideration into the pure feelings of a middle school girl

I'm a 26 year old woman.
I wouldn't know what constitutes a middle school girl's "real" feelings



I'm a pragmatic woman who can't even support her boyfriend's dreams
But I'm always having to picture how a young girl, who's heart flutters just by receiving a candy wrapper with the words "I love you," on it, feels, and I can't help but overthink things.
And I'm still only a middle school girl at heart.
and even though I have it tough being an adult, I don't want to expect too much out of others.
But out of habit, I'm always thinking how wonderful it would be to find a man who would take care of me and give me a sense of security.
Even though I'm a shoujo manga artist, I'm such a pitiful and disgusting woman!

drip drip
drip
I can't write...
with pure emotions any longer.

...Huh?
What the hell am I doing?
Uwah! I'm sorry!

You're not a bad person
You worry about him that way because you're serious
I know it's true because I've been watching you since your debut.
But I went over the line, and I'm really sorry.

You seemed like a really good person
When our future was still like a dream...
You work yourself hard, and I found that adorable
What kind of people will we end up marrying?

I...

Roppongi Hills is bigger than I thought...
I can't choose where to go first
excited
excited
Stop acting so strange
The Fendi show was amazing! ♡
I've been looking forward to the Spring-Summer trends too
Thanks for inviting me... It's great to have a rich friend ♡
Hm?
Okuzono-san?

Something wrong?
Oh, no, nothing
That was definitely Okuzono-san.
And no matter how you look at it she's a new woman.
And there goes the Cambon Ligne bag again
It doesn't really matter.
Even if Okuzono-san has a new girlfriend,
there's no need for me to be concerned.
I see.

So he does

what he has to do

A thank you gift for the Laputa chocolates
Huh?
I'm sorry for having to call you out on a Sunday, but it was too big and stands out
This is...

C-C-CAMBON LIGNE?! THE REAL THING?!
Oh, so that's what it's called
I told you, they're in return for the Valentine's chocolate.
Ha!
No way, are you sure? Really?! But why?!

Clutch
Okuzono-san, do you always give women Chanel bags?
What?
CHANEL
.....
I can't accept this.

Thrust
I bought this for you, so I can't take it back
B-but
I'm the type that prefers to buy things for myself
Give it to someone else if you don't want it
I called you in to work as a pretext, so you can go home now
Okuzono-san!

Okuzono-san is my boss
That's all he is.
Even if I went to his house and slept over, nothing happened.
Nothing.
That's all

"I'll take it to bed with me and never let go."
"Once I get that bag,
But now that I've finally got the bag,
I am sleeping with my back turned toward it.

All the while feeling an inexplicable tightening around my chest.

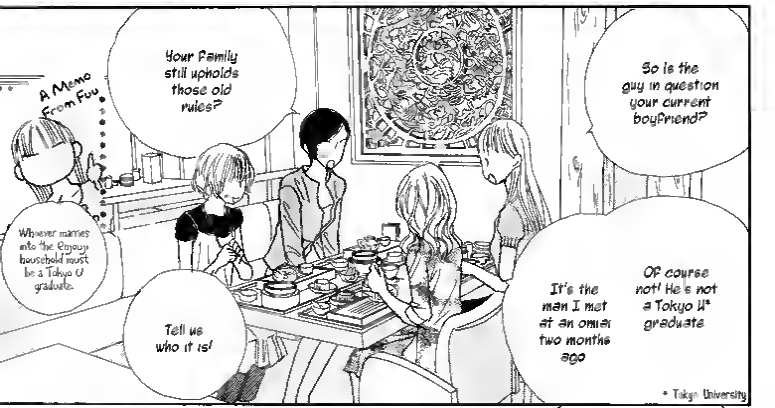
Tokyo Alice Volume 1, Chapter 4

Thanks to Chiya Toriko
& Stiletto Heels' Staff
Hatsumimi (trans)
Kim (edits)
Stiletto (Qc)

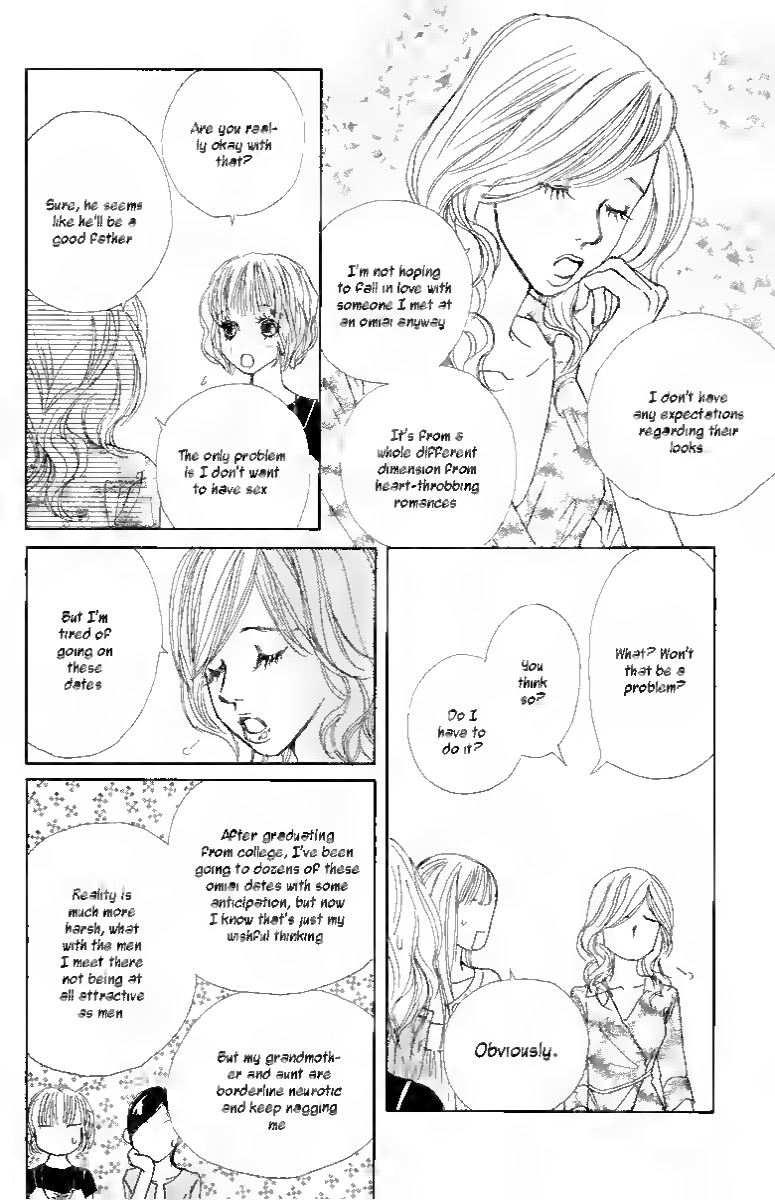
SHOPPING : 5

It all began with these words from Enjouji

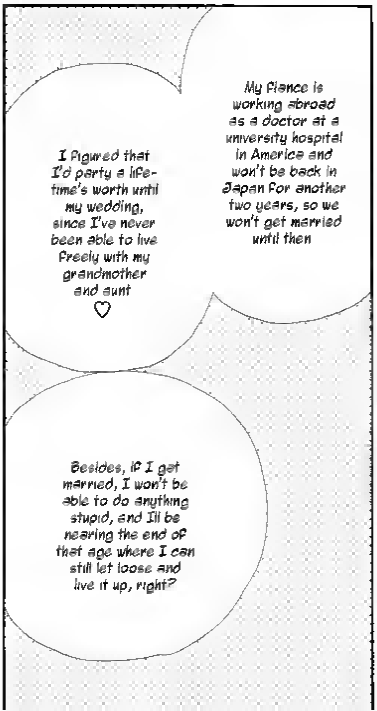
I guess the time of reckoning has arrived for you at last
Wow, congratu-lations! ♡
WHAT?! NO WAY?!

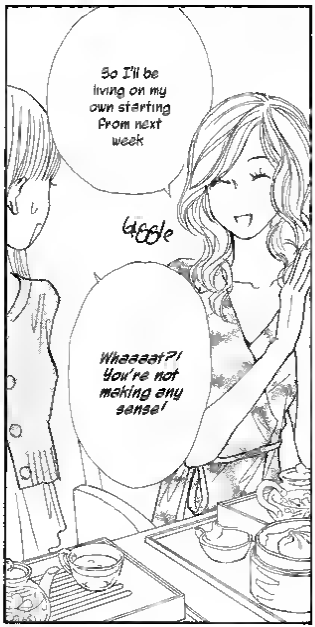

A Memo From Fou
Your family still upholds those old rules?
So is the guy in question your current boyfriend?
Whoever marries into the Reiyou household must be a Tokyo U graduate.
Tell us who it is!
It's the man I met at an omiai two months ago
Of course not! He's not a Tokyo U* graduate
* Tokyo University

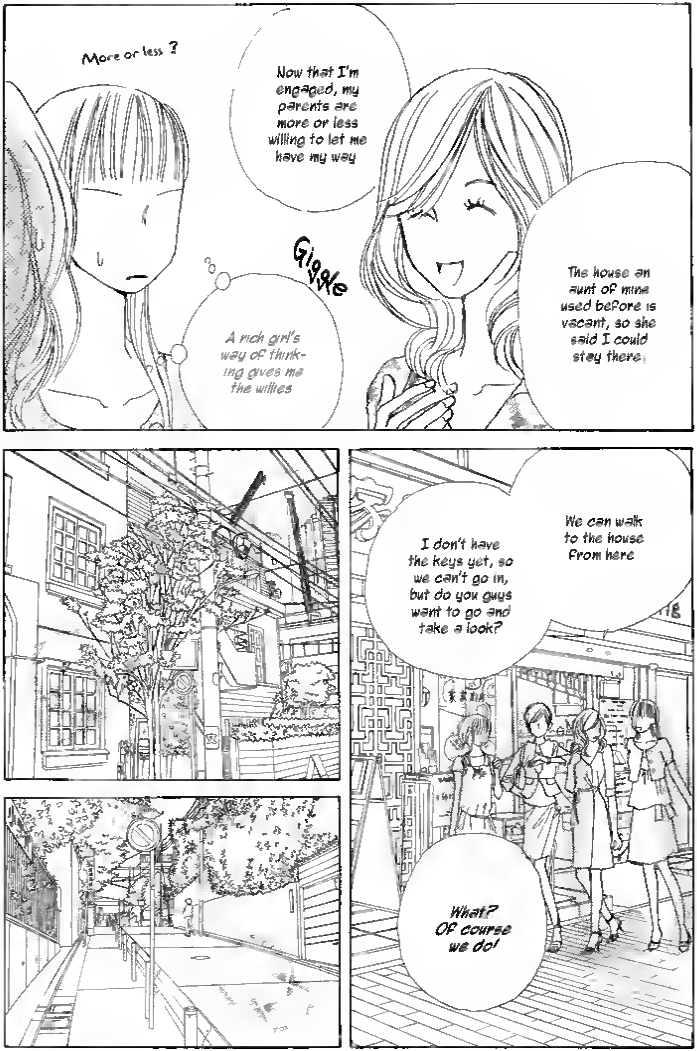
He seems like a pudgy-faced, nice-looking person
THAT'S NOT HELPFUL AT ALL.
He's a mix between Shofukutei Tsurube and Koasa, a bit like a teddy bear, and his mouth resembles Funakoshi Eichiro's *
* Shofukutei Tsurube is a famous comedian while Koasa and Funakoshi Eichiro are seasoned actors.


Are you really okay with that?
Sure, he seems like he'll be a good father
The only problem is I don't want to have sex
I'm not hoping to fall in love with someone I met at an omiai anyway
It's from a whole different dimension from heart-throbbing romances
I don't have any expectations regarding their looks
But I'm tired of going on these dates
What? Won't that be a problem?
You think so?
Do I have to do it?
Obviously.
After graduating from college, I've been going to dozens of these omiai dates with some anticipation, but now I know that's just my wishful thinking
Reality is much more harsh, what with the men I meet there not being at all attractive as men
But my grandmother and aunt are borderline neurotic and keep nagging me

So I figured the appointments would stop coming if I just got married
I see.
So that's why
Yep

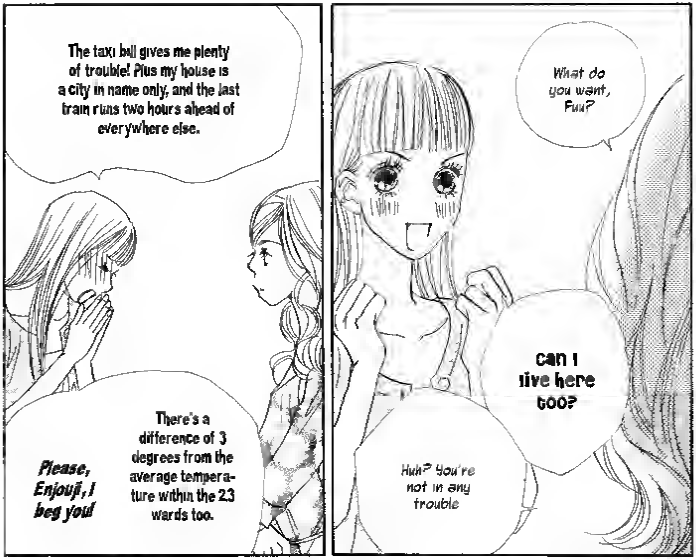

I figured that I'd party a lifetime's worth until my wedding, since I've never been able to live freely with my grandmother and aunt
♡
My fiance is working abroad as a doctor at a university hospital in America and won't be back in Japan for another two years, so we won't get married until then
Besides, if I get married, I won't be able to do anything stupid, and I'll be nearing the end of that age where I can still let loose and live it up, right?

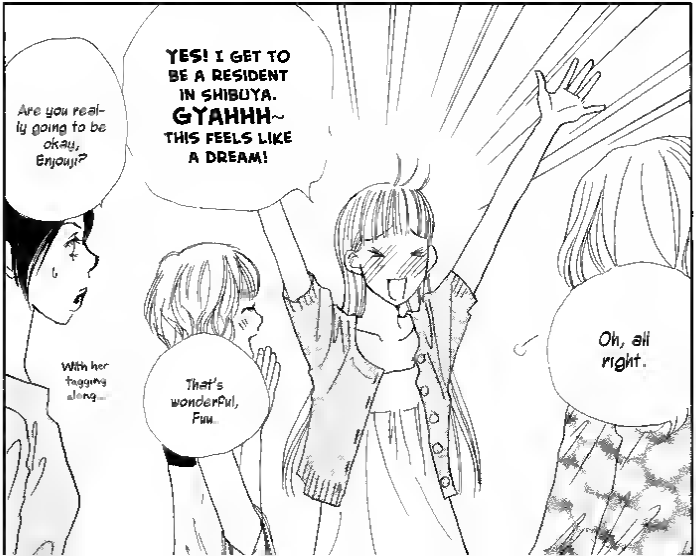

So I'll be living on my own starting from next week
Whaaaat?! You're not making any sense!


More or less ?
Now that I'm engaged, my parents are more or less willing to let me have my way
Giggle
A rich girl's way of thinking gives me the willies
The house an aunt of mine used before is vacant, so she said I could stay there.
I don't have the keys yet, so we can't go in, but do you guys want to go and take a look?
We can walk to the house from here
What? Of course we do!

Wow, there's a lot of fruit growing from that tree.
I wonder what they are..
Aren't those loquats?
Must be nice....
Looks pretty big too
Wow, it's such a cute house!
It's a luxury to live in this place by yourself..
Mizuho?
I thought it might sound too depressing, so I didn't want to say anything earlier, but I'm going to have to move out of my apartment...
Huh?!

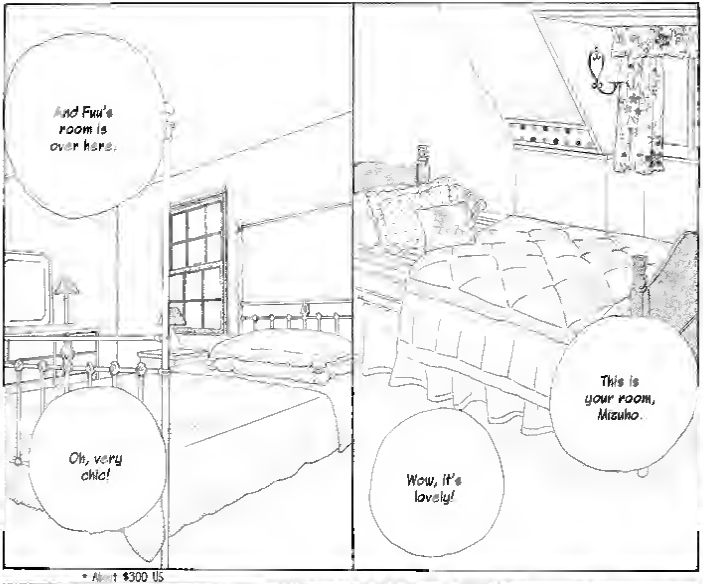
My parents were against my becoming a manga artist, so I can't move back home either
Then you can come live here, Mizuho
Yo-chan came home drunk the other night and broke all the windows in the apartment
Ugh! He's a jerk!
Break up with that guy already!
Yeah, I did
But the manager got angry and said we have to move out and pay the full month's rent
HEY!
SNIFF
Can I stay until I find a new apartment?
I'd like to have you live here for free, but I hope you can help with the utilities bill
There are plenty of rooms as long as you're okay with it
No way, are you sure?!


The taxi bill gives me plenty of trouble! Plus my house is a city in name only, and the last train runs two hours ahead of everywhere else.
There's a difference of 3 degrees from the average temperature within the 23 wards too.
Please, Enjouji, I beg you!
What do you want, Fuu?
can I live here too?
Huh? You're not in any trouble

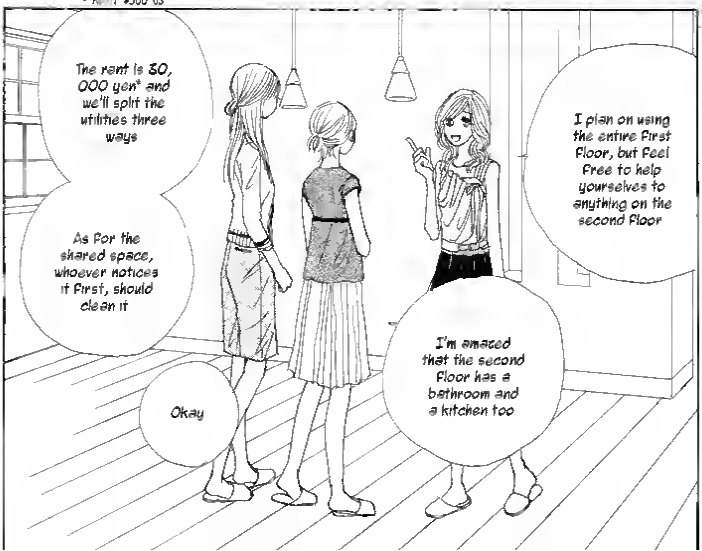

Are you really going to be okay, Enjouji?
YES! I GET TO BE A RESIDENT IN SHIBUYA. GYAHHH~ THIS FEELS LIKE A DREAM!
With her tagging along...
That's wonderful, Fuu.
Oh, all right.

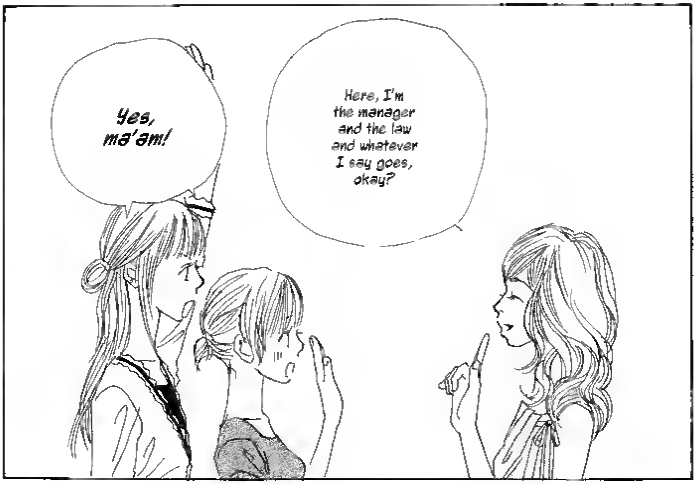
Grown-up friends being roommates sounds enticing, doesn't it?
I'll make sure all of you make me good memories during my remaining days as a bachelorette
And just like that...
we began living together in the house with a Loquat tree in Daikanyama*
* a ward in Shibuya

This is the living room
We'll be sharing this space
I guess we'll have to go furniture-shopping
Here's the bathroom
Here's the kitchen
Wow, it's adorable
Very retro
Gyahh, it's a ball and claw foot tub!

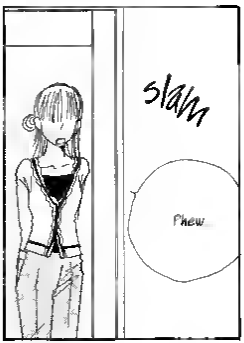

And Fuu's room is over here.
Oh, very chic!
This is your room, Mizuho.
Wow, it's lovely!

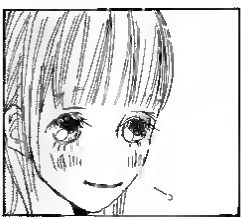
* About $300 US


The rent is 30,000 yen* and we'll split the utilities three ways
As for the shared space, whoever notices it first, should clean it
Okay
I plan on using the entire First Floor, but Feel Free to help yourselves to anything on the second floor
I'm amazed that the second floor has a bathroom and a kitchen too


Yes, ma'am!
Here, I'm the manager and the law and whatever I say goes, okay?

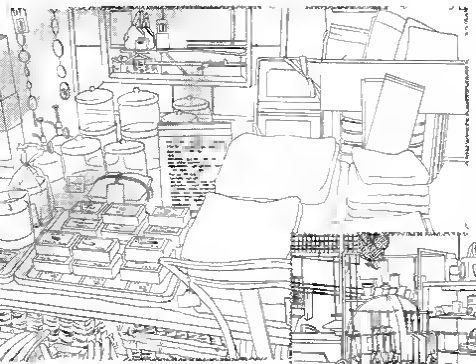
This is a dream come true!
Kyaaaaa!
Dance of Joy
I can't believe that I'm actually going to be living in Daikanyama!


slam
Phew

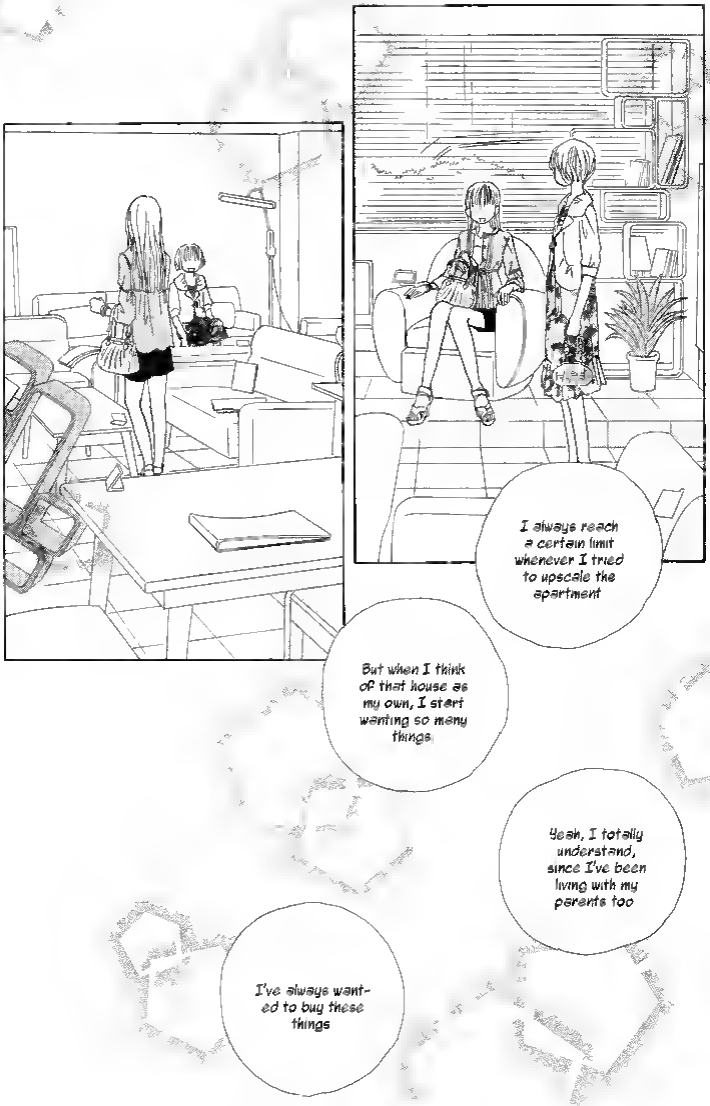


I CAN'T WAIT TO FEAST MY EYES ON LOADS AND LOADS OF CUTE THINGS... ♡
WHEN MIZUHO AND I GET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY, I'LL SEE IF WE CAN DROP BY THE GENERAL GOODS STORE AND AN INTERIOR DECORATION SHOP.
exerted
exerted
Eh-heh
This is no time to be dancing I need to unpack
Cambon

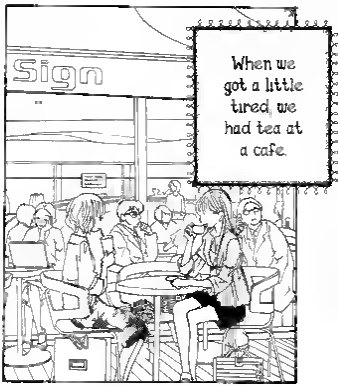
I bought this for you, so I can't take it back
B-but
I thought things would feel strange afterward, but Okuzono-san behaves the same as usual
Nothing has changed
.....
I couldn't return it, so I just kept it
And it would be such a waste to [illegible] even used it once
I can't read his thoughts, but
Cambon
I'll put you in the best spot in my new room ♡
That's not the bag's fault



Mizuho, what do you think about this sofa?
This rug mat's adorable
I want to put it in the second floor bathroom
What about aroma candles for when we take baths?
Nice!
We'll take it!
It says that they're made with soy milk
Let's go pay!
Wow, it's cheaper than I expected.
I wonder if Enjouji will give us the OK for this.
Look!
Look!
It compliments the room
Ordered by Enjouji to go and buy a sofa
Good luck.

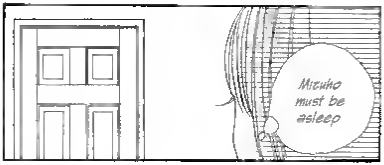

I always reach a certain limit whenever I tried to upscale the apartment
But when I think of that house as my own, I start wanting so many things
Yeah, I totally understand, since I've been living with my parents too
I've always wanted to buy these things

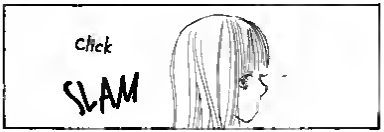
And then went window-shopping for some clothes afterward.

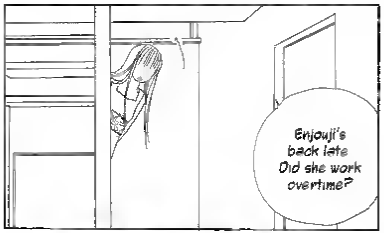

Sign
When we got a little tired, we had tea at a cafe.

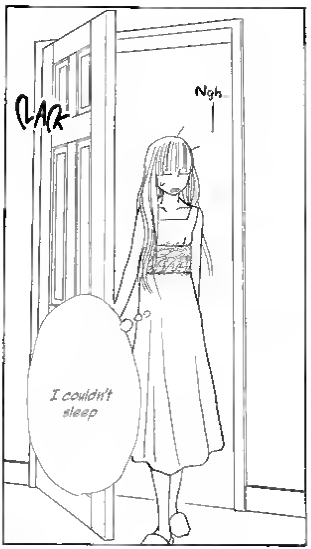
THIS IS FUN! ♪
I'm glad she's okay after the breakup
Fuu, let's go in that shop.
We'll go back to those old days, and live with just us girls

Peach-scented aroma candles
Clothespins with cute designs
Semi-retro glass cups
An Electrolux Codeless Kettle
SWEET
TRY ME
1.5L

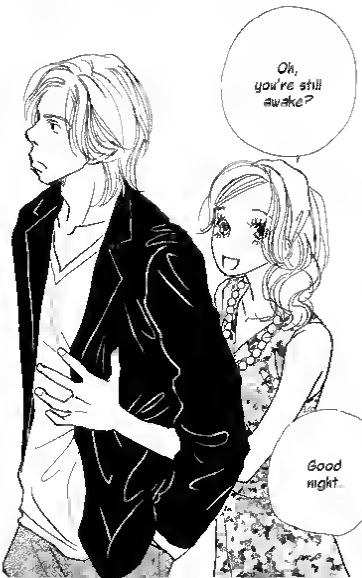

Mizuho must be asleep

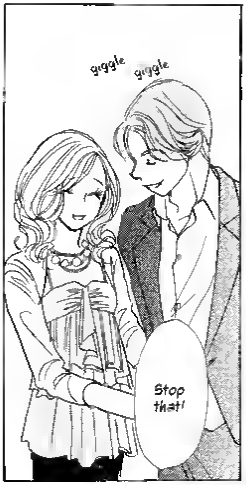

Click
SLAM


Enjouji's back late Did she work overtime?

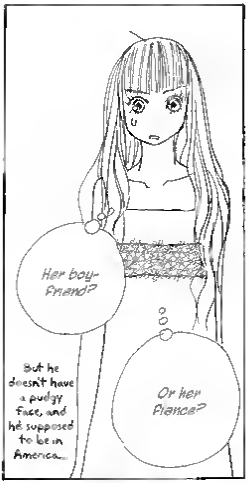

CLACK
Ngh...
I couldn't sleep

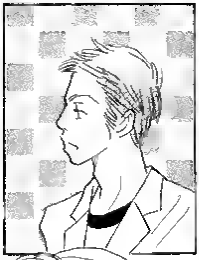
Come in, my room is this way

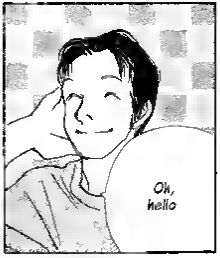

Oh, you're still awake?
Good night...

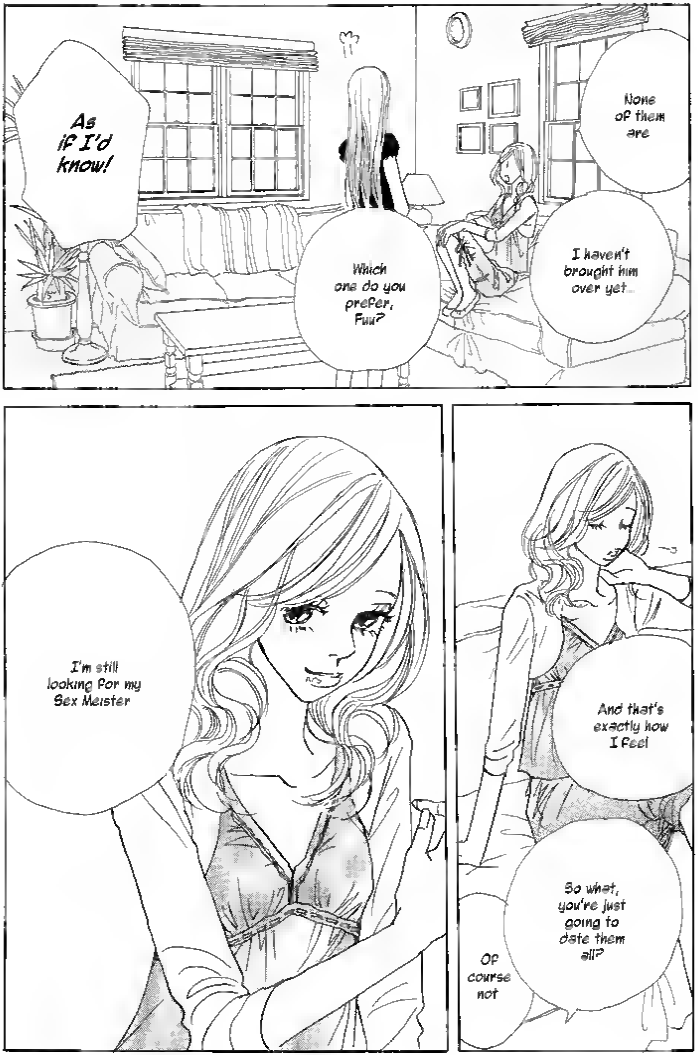


Every night after that men would routinely visit Enjouji



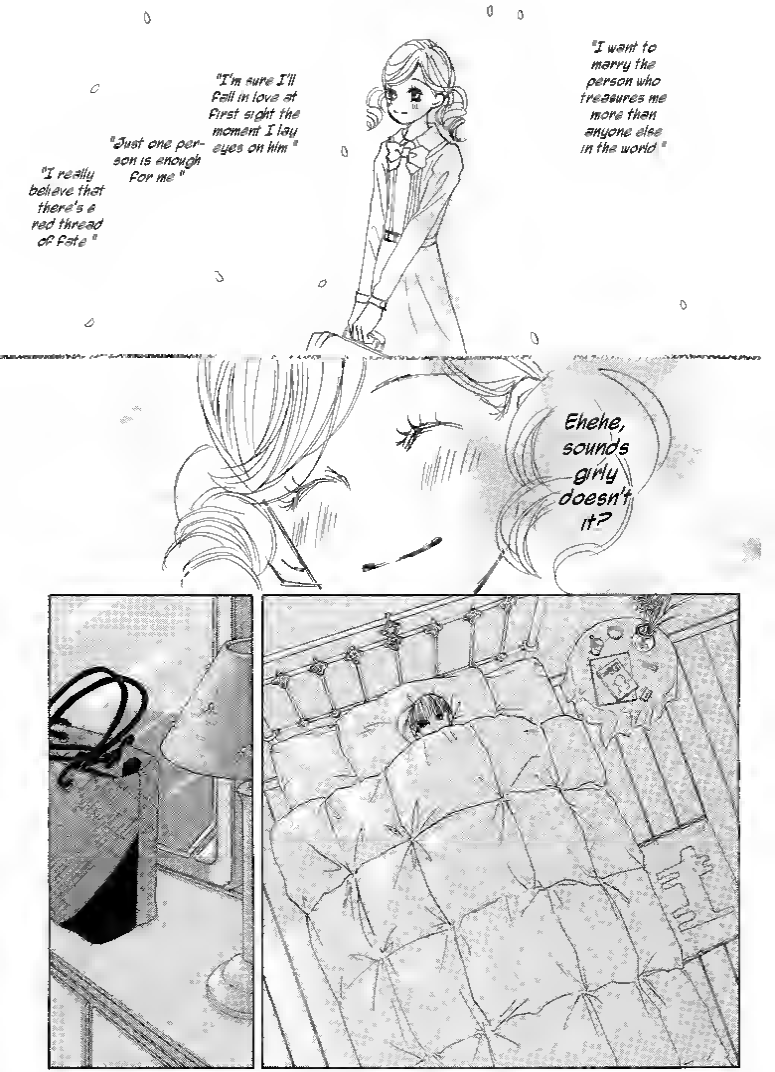





As if I'd know!
Which one do you prefer, Fuu?
I haven't brought him over yet...
None of them are
I'm still looking for my Sex Meister
So what, you're just going to date them all?
Of course not
And that's exactly how I feel

HUH?!
This is just between you and me, but I've never had an orgasm
I don't think I'm frigid or anything
That's why I don't have any long term plans for dating these men
I want to enjoy having different romances and different sex with different people
What IF I just married without ever knowing the joys of being a woman for the rest of my life?
I want to go out with a foreigner, or a guy much younger, or a man much older, and maybe even try having an affair
I know he'll want a child, so on days where I'm ovulating, we'll have sex once or twice,
I went to drown in eroticism
but once we have a child, I doubt we'll ever do it again
IF I get married I won't be able to do any of those things, so I want to experiencing everything beforehand
Eroticism?

H... Hang in there.
Thanks
Um... well...
Tell me Fuu
Am I wrong?
I'm glad that you understand, Fuu
No— it's not because I understand
I was a bit worried that I'd turn you off by telling you all this
Giggle
Now I can tell you everything that I've kept inside
ANYWAY, WAS ENJOUJI ALWAYS LIKE THIS?!


"I want to marry the person who treasures me more than anyone else in the world."
"I'm sure I'll fall in love at first sight the moment I lay eyes on him."
"Just one person is enough for me."
"I really believe that there's a red thread of fate."
Ehehe, sounds girly doesn't it?

Now that I'm 26 years old,
I've come to realize this.
I might not have as much interest in finding love like the others.
I don't have the passion or the will to invest in a relationship -.
Even if I was dating someone, the first day of a bargain sale would have more priority than our dates.
I've never had a boyfriend, and don't really feel that I want one.
When it comes to men...

But even then... I don't feel conflicted

If this is what it feels like to never experience true love, then I'm okay with it

But it might be just a little lonely if it's not in my genetic makeup to fall in love with anyone

Hi!

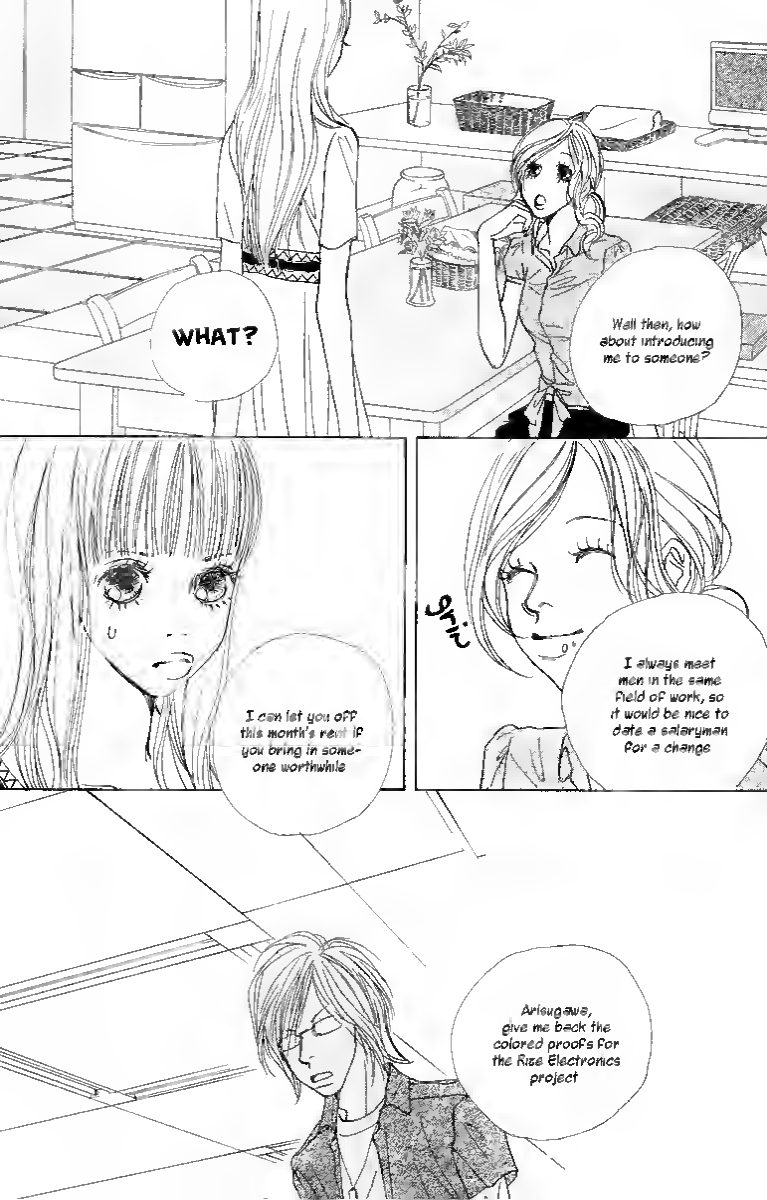
I just received a bonus. What's up with this balance?

Enlarged

¥15,071

* Roughly $150.71

It has to be this MiuMiu bag
It cost me my entire bonus in April
MIUMIU.
Hnghhh... Only 15,071 yen left on my balance
Clutch
But then I used it all up bit by bit with the move
Urgh... I was savouring the purchase after estimating this month's bonus
Sure...
I miscalculated this month's budget...
What's it this time?
You probably just blew your bonus off on some purchase and forgot about it
Crap she saw through me
Can I postpone the rent due date?


WHAT?
Well then, how about introducing me to someone?
I can let you off this month's rent IF you bring in someone worthwhile
GRIN
I always meet men in the same field of work, so it would be nice to date a salaryman for a change
Arisugawa, give me back the colored proofs for the Rise Electronics project

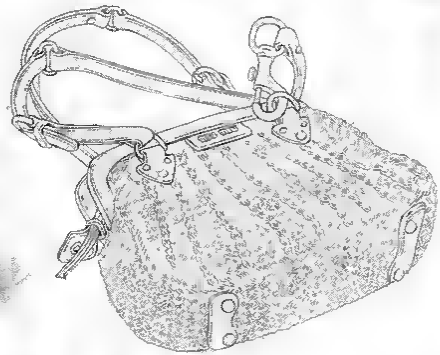
Sayuri's Wishes.
"He should look good in a suit."
"No glasses, please."
"Be someone cool."
SHAKE
Hey!
BELOW STANDARDS.
Shuuuuu
What?
Nod
This thought just struck me,
but our company doesn't have any good-looking men...
I never noticed...
Arisugawa.

If our chief gives the OK for this proposal,
you can decide on which designer to put in charge
?
.....
Looks good in a suit.
No glasses.
Cool.

I've done it again
Um, Okuzono-san...!
And this here is my friend, Enjouji-san.
Nice to meet you.
Fuu and I went to the same middle school

was that just so you could have us meet?
When you said that you had something to talk about,
For giving your girlfriend the wrong idea
Huh? Yes, um... That's because it was my fault
I thought maybe I could introduce you to someone
Oh, but if you're already seeing someone else...
I couldn't yet understand the expression on his face at that time

It was almost like forgetting that I had blown my entire bonus on stuff.



only to find myself crying over it later

《 Tokyo Alice Vol1 / END 》
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SPECIAL
THANX

YOKO KAWAGUCHI
SAJI KIRIAKE
SATOKO ITO
RIKA MURASE
MIHO KAMIJO
YUKKE SHICHIMI
&
MY MOTHER
&
DOLLY

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なお、お送りいただいたお手紙、あハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

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TOKYO ALICE VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 5

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